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Hammersmith and Fulham council's Labour leader Stephen Cowan, pictured top, stood united with Conservative opposition leader Greg Smith against the Government's ruling that a third runway should be built at Heathrow airport

Politicians unite to fight Heathrow runway decision

'Outrageous' verdict condemned by all sides at Town Hall

BY JACK DIXON
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Political adversaries will put down their swords and stand shoulder to shoulder this week as Londoners form a united front against the Government's "outrageous" decision to back a third runway at Heathrow airport.

Town Hall chiefs in Hammersmith and Fulham – from both

the Labour and Conservative ranks – are leading the charge against expansion as former foes join forces for the battle ahead.

Giants of London's political battleground are also expected to unite in opposition to a third runway this week, with the prospect of Mayor Sadiq Khan and his predecessor Boris Johnson sharing a platform.

The closing of ranks was trig-

gered last week by the Government's momentous decision to publically support the creation of an extra runway at the UK's largest airport.

It prompted a series of environmental organisations, pressure groups and local councils to threaten legal action in a bid to block the expansion.

Now, after years of wrangling over the need for extra capacity,

Londoners are gearing up for an almighty struggle to stop the capital becoming a "city of planes".

Hammersmith and Fulham council's Labour leader Stephen Cowan stood united with Conservative opposition leader Greg Smith against the plan.

Cllr Cowan said: "This administration is thoroughly opposed to the decision to progress the Heathrow third runway option."



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Grandpa England equals perfect TV – page 13

'Even the super-rich can feel depressed, worthless'

JUSTIN Bieber is renting his new London mansion for an eye-watering £108,000 a month. He could retire comfortably at the age of 22 – but he continues to travel the world recording and performing his music. Why?

It's not money that drives him but personal development, says life coach Michael Serwa, who has worked with some of the world's highest-earning individuals to help transform their life.

Just like anyone else, says Michael, the super-rich can hit personal barriers which leave them feeling depressed and worthless.

"I know how difficult being a

high earner can be – people expect you to be happy and often you're not," says the 33-year-old, who is based in Mayfair.

"You wish others would understand that just because you have something they want, it doesn't mean you feel the same.

"High earners have a hunger to go further. It's difficult to express this without sounding ungrateful for what you've got.

"You need someone who won't tell you to be grateful for what you have but instead encourage you to pace yourself and achieve something you haven't accomplished yet."

Michael has worked with clients from all corners of the professional world – from

bankers and lawyers to superstar musicians, celebrities and chief executives of multi-billion-pound corporations.

He claims to have eliminated all of his own limiting beliefs and insecurities – and says he is now on a mission to help others leave their comfort zones and progress to the next level of their life.

"People could view you as a champion, whereas you still see yourself running the race," he says.

"Your mentality to achieve more and go further has got you to where you are now. It will also get you to where you want to go.

"Some people may not comprehend that you want to go further and think you should be happy

with what you have – but they don't know your ultimate goal."

Since moving to London in 2005, Michael has worked with more than 400 clients on a one-to-one basis and has spoken at 250 events.

His technique is to focus on every aspect of a client's life – relationships, health and fitness, work-life balance – zeroing in on precisely what is holding them back.

In many cases, he says, it is the weight of expectation that stunts the further development of successful individuals.

Michael says: "Nobody told you that being at the top meant you'd be watched intensely, especially by the ones who care about you most.

"Everyone expects you to be a strong, strategic, charming, money-making genius all of the time.

"If you don't reach those expectations, you view it as a loss.

"An excellent and strategic coach's priority is to make you act, feel and look like a champion, making you an expert at turning situations around in your favour."

Michael is in the process of writing his second book on life-coaching following the staggering success of his debut, *From Good To Amazing: No Bulls**4 Tips For The Life You Always Wanted* – a self-help collection of handy hints covering different areas of personal development.

He is known in the field for his occasionally unusual methods, often introducing different clients to each other and hosting dinners for multiple guests.

Michael is even taking to the big screen to feature in *The Coaching Movie* – a forthcoming documentary film about the ins and outs of the industry – which is due for release next year.

His tailored programmes of support – spanning anything from three months to a year – seem to strike a particular chord in Central London, where some of the capital's high-fliers congregate on a daily treadmill to reach the top.

But sometimes, says Michael, even the most successful among us require a confidence boost.

He says: "You feel that with everything you want to achieve, 24 hours hardly cuts it. You have to make choices between activities such as dinner with friends and preparation for a meeting.

"Maybe you sacrifice an hour at the gym for an hour planning to meet contacts. You then have no idea when you last saw your friends outside Facebook and a day off at the gym turns into a month. There is a way to manage it all.

"You need to have the right person to hold you accountable for what you choose to do or not to do. You need to feel good about your decisions. If you don't, it means there is room to improve – and you could probably do with someone to point it out."

Life coach Michael Serwa has worked with some of the world's highest-earning individuals



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Police archives in new museum

ONE of the victims of Jack the Ripper will be recreated as a hologram at the new City of London Police Museum next week.

Rarely-seen items from the City of London Police's archives – including home-made terrorist bombs – will tell the story of the force's history at the new museum which opens at Guildhall on Monday 7 November.

The City of London Police Museum will take visitors on a unique journey, which includes the last hours of one of Jack the Ripper's victims; bomb damage during the Blitz; and the force's current work to combat economic crime, cybercrime and terrorism.

The purpose-built museum is a collaboration between the City of London Police and the City of London Corporation's Guildhall Library, which is situated next to the new museum.

Digital installations were designed and produced by staff and students from the Guildhall School of Music & Drama, who worked in partnership with the City of London Corporation, which owns the school, to provide cutting edge content to the new museum.

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) awarded a grant of around £90,000 towards the development of the museum and associated community engagement. Admission to the museum is free and there will be a series of special events and a range of merchandise available.

The City of London Police has been responsible for policing the Square Mile since 1839. At just over one square mile, it is one of the smallest police districts in the world, although it is the UK's leading police force for fraud and economic crime.

The main stories highlighted by the museum will include:

- Catherine Eddowes, who was murdered by Jack the Ripper in 1888. Catherine will be brought back to life as a virtual hologram.
- The Houndsditch Murders that claimed the lives of three City of London Police officers, who were investigating strange noises coming from a house in Houndsditch.
- The two World Wars and their impact on policing.
- Terrorism - from some of the earliest examples of home-made bombs to what is in place today.
- The technological progress of communications - from the old days of VHF radio to modern 4G technologies.
- The force's animals. The City of London Police has nine horses and since the 1940s, over 70 horses have served in the force.



Jack the Ripper victim Catherine Eddowes will be brought to life as a hologram

Lions tour is in the Pink

BY GEOFF BAKER

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WEST London shirtmakers Thomas Pink have signed rugby legend Brian O'Driscoll to host a series of Mayfair events to celebrate winning the contract to be official outfitters for The British & Irish Lions 2017 Tour to New Zealand, ensuring they are the best dressed sports team in the world.

Captained by O'Driscoll, The Pink Lion Rugby Club will host events in the months leading up to June 2017.

The first of these events takes place over the course of three nights at The Pink Lion Rugby Club – otherwise known as The Clarence in Mayfair, – on November 8, 9 and 10. The events will include wine tasting with the Head Coach of the 2017 British & Irish Lions, an evening with Lions legends, and a rugby club quiz hosted by a rather familiar face.

Tuesday, November 8 will see Warren Gatland, the 2017 British & Irish Lions Head Coach launch the Thomas Pink retail collection.

"To celebrate this launch he will be joined by former England and Lions prop-turned wine connoisseur Andrew Sheridan for a wine tasting with a difference. The duo will put the finest Northern Hemisphere and New Zealand wines through their paces whilst also talking about what



Lion Brian O'Driscoll hosting a series of events to celebrate the tie-up between the 2017 tour to New Zealand and Thomas Pink

the 2017 Tour has in store," said a spokesman.

On Wednesday, November 9 the Pink Lion Rugby Club will host with its very own rugby club style introduction, that will see club captain Brian O'Driscoll joined by Lions legends Martin Bayfield, Scott Gibbs and Gavin Hastings for a night of 'Lions Tales'.

On November 10 the club will hold a rugby quiz. Question of Sport host, British & Irish Lion and 2003 Rugby World Cup winner Matt Dawson will host the Pink Lion Rugby Quiz, giving guests a chance to see if they can outfox his extensive rugby knowledge.

"It is good to be involved with something that gives back to

Lions fans. Pink Lion Rugby Club members will be able to attend club events featuring past and present Lions, get some rugby insight from myself and other Lions and will also be in with a chance of playing in a touch rugby game against some of rugby's legends," said O'Driscoll.

Jonathan Heilbron, President and CEO of Thomas Pink, says: "We are excited to be partnering with The British & Irish Lions again, as we did in 2013, as they prepare to head to New Zealand next year. We intend to make sure that once again, The Lions remain the best dressed sports team in the world."

Crisis charity appeals for 10,000 to volunteer this Christmas

A TALE of two cities – at a time when 4,000 are expected to be homeless in the city this Christmas, an online shop for London's rich is selling a Harrods "decadence hamper" at £20,000 for those who won't be celebrating the festive season with only soup.

Very First To, the millionaires' website that specialises in luxury, claims that the hamper is the most decadent ever produced by the Qatar-owned Knightsbridge shop.

Besides fine wines, the hamper contains champagne, brandy gold-infused olive oil, caviar, black and white truffles, 50-year-old vinegar, whisky and a selection of cold meats.

"Harrods hampers are legendary throughout the globe and this is its most decadent yet," boasts the website.

"The Decadence arrives in a fleet of trunks, filled to the brim with a line-up of fine wines, Champagne and spirits, cured meats, exotic teas and coffees and timeless Christmas favourites.

"Abundant in every sense of the word, this decadent hamper solves Christmas entertaining quibbles in one fell swoop."

Meanwhile, the homeless charity Crisis is appealing for 10,000 volunteers to come forward to help with entertaining quibbles for the thousands who are expected to spend Christmas in London without much caviar.

"We need 10,000 people who will help more than 4,000 homeless guests this Christmas," said a Crisis spokesman.

"We need people with specialist skills like dentists, hairdressers, lorry drivers and performers, as well as an army of general volunteers ready to muck in.

"We need helpful people to work on a variety of tasks such as welcoming guests to our centres, serving food, sorting bedding and generally making sure things go to plan. No special expertise is needed, just a general willingness to get involved."

Besides specialists, Crisis is looking for helpers who will just listen to those who will come off the streets to celebrate Christmas at one of the charity's centres.

"To a guest who has been living on the streets or isolated in a hostel, has fragile mental health or finds speaking English difficult, our centres must seem like loud and intimidating places.

"We know many of our guests want a quiet place to sit and feel safe. You can help them get the most out of Christmas by volunteering," said a spokesperson.

To help Crisis this Christmas, go to crisis.org.uk

Sex workers stage Home Office protest

WEST End prostitutes have protested at the Home Office against a police crackdown after six premises in Chinatown and Soho were raided last week.

Following the raids on Sunday October 23, 18 people were arrested; 12 have been removed on immigration grounds, six for other criminal charges.

"Thai women were particularly targeted," said a spokeswoman for the English Collective of Prostitutes [ECP].

"Police slapped closure notices on the doors of premises and threw women out onto the street. Westminster police say they were targeting 'suspected brothels' and were looking for trafficked women, drugs and prostitution offences.

"But yet again no victims were found. £35,000 was taken by police fuelling suspicions that profiteering was behind the raids.

"Women called the ECP to say how the raids have left women in the area terrified. They suspect that land

grabs are also behind the raids as flats opposite gentrified areas have been targeted for closure."

The ECP's Laura Watson commented: "Yet again anti-trafficking policies are being used as a justification for raids and deportations against immigrant sex workers. Some women working in the area have suffered violent attacks and robberies in recent months but the police did nothing.

"Instead police resources are being squandered on raiding women working together in the relative safety of flats."

Following the arrests, four women and one man were charged with controlling prostitution and closure notices were issued by courts.

"Police crackdowns like this are happening all over the UK. Research by the ECP shows that between April and September this year there have been at least 50 closures of premises with hundreds of women criminalised," said the spokeswoman.

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FROM PAGE 1

"Second, I will prioritise the safety of London's young people, with fewer lives ruined by knife crime, gang-related crime and serious youth violence.

"Third, I will draw on London's best traditions and work together against hate crime, prevent extremism and keep Londoners safe from terrorism. Isolation breeds fear, which breeds division, which leads to extremism. That is why social integration will be at the heart of my approach to strengthening communities.

"And to protect London's public while minimising the visibility of armed patrol and use of lethal force, I will increase the number of highly trained firearms officers to allow them to respond to potential terrorist attacks more rapidly.

"Fourth, I will confront violence against women and girls, wherever and however it occurs, doing more to reduce victims of domestic abuse, particularly repeat victims, and to bring perpetrators to justice.

"And finally, I will make the criminal justice system work for Londoners. In the first instance, I will publish a single set of shared outcomes for all justice agencies, to drive better outcomes for victims and communities. And in the longer term, it makes sense for greater powers to be devolved to City Hall over the way youth justice, probation, prosecution, magistrates' courts and short-sentenced prisoners are managed."

HOMES

The Mayor's intention is to ease the city's housing crisis by making half of all the homes within the reach of the average pocket.

He writes: "To meet the challenge, I plan to get more housing built on Transport for London (TfL) and other public-sector land, to help the development industry to do more – and, importantly, to offer a variety of affordable housing types – low-cost rented, the London Living Rent and shared ownership – working towards a target of 50 per cent of new homes in the capital being affordable."

He adds: "A shortage of truly affordable homes is acting as a drag on the attractiveness of our city as a place to live and work. That is why I have made housing such a priority, and aim to deliver more, better, genuinely affordable homes for the Londoners who need them.

"The large investments I am pushing for in transport infrastructure will help to deliver more homes – Crossrail 2 and the Bakerloo Line and Crossrail extensions, for example, could lead to the development of hundreds of thousands of new homes. I also want to intensify housing development on TfL land, which could accommodate thousands of new homes on the first batch of 75 sites across the city – and I will make sure that appropriate landholdings of the Metropolitan Police are developed for housing.

"And I want to influence other public-sector bodies, for example central-government departments and Network Rail, to follow my example and help develop housing wherever possible. Indeed, the NHS is one of the largest owners of land and buildings in London, and I have begun to work closely with the NHS on plans to unlock their surplus sites for housing and to enable the release of capital for reinvestment in their services."

METROISATION

To ease the misery that commuters endure day-in day-out, the Mayor intends to take control of the controversial rail links back to City Hall.

"I am calling for the devolution of suburban rail services to my control, beginning with the Southeastern franchise in 2018, in an ambitious 'metroisation' plan to bring poor train services up to the standards of the London Underground," the Mayor reveals. I am confident that the transport services I run in London

are going to be world class – and I want to do even more. That is why I am calling on the Government to devolve suburban rail services to my control. This will enable me to create a substantially bigger London Underground service, with better stations, more staff and more frequent trains – which Londoners can trust.

"By 2040, an extra six million trips will be taken per day in London – and, given the finite amount of road space we have and the high costs and long lead times of providing new infrastructure, it will not be possible to keep pace with these increases in demand unless we are prepared to change the way we travel. To manage this demand, I will look at introducing innovative methods, including using road space for different purposes at different times of the day, shifting lorry consolidation centres closer to the River Thames or the rail network, and encouraging more business deliveries by bike.

"I will also encourage Londoners to take more trips on foot or by bike – as part of my plan for 'Healthy Streets'. These initiatives, designed to reduce overcrowding, will also be instrumental in improving air quality, reducing health inequality, making the roads safer, and contributing to a better quality of life in London.

"One side effect of growth – which many Londoners already feel – is overcrowding on trains. In anticipation of rising numbers of passengers, I have made plans to increase the capacity of the transport system in London.

"I am looking forward to the opening of the Elizabeth line in 2018, which will carry an extra 72,000 passengers per hour at peak times. I am also investing in the Underground, so that the capacity of the District, Circle, Metropolitan and Hammersmith & City lines increases by 33 per cent by the mid 2020s, with up to 36 trains per hour running on the Piccadilly, Waterloo & City, Bakerloo and Central lines by the end of that decade."

A CLEAN LONDON

"As the city develops to accommodate more people, jobs and activity, and as the threats from climate change become more tangible, it is vital both for the health and wellbeing of our citizens and for our business competitiveness to protect and enhance the environment – including the Green Belt.

"I want air quality to be back down to safe levels as soon as possible, and by 2050 I want London to be zero carbon – which we can achieve in part by introducing measures for cleaner, more efficient energy production and use. In addition, for the city to be green, healthy and more attractive, I will look to reduce traffic and encourage cycling and walking on 'Healthy Streets'. And I will do everything in my power to protect the city's heritage and culture and promote good design in public spaces to improve everyone's quality of life."

"Road transport has a significant impact on air quality, accounting for around half of NOx emissions – and diesel vehicles are responsible for a large proportion of those emissions.

"I propose introducing an emissions surcharge (or 'Toxicity Charge') in 2017 for high-polluting older vehicles in central London, (payable on top of the Congestion Charge). I am developing proposals to introduce the central-London Ultra-Low Emission Zone in 2019, a year earlier than planned, and potentially enlarging the area it covers, up to the North and South Circular Roads for all vehicles, and London wide for the most polluting heavy vehicles.

"I am currently consulting on these plans, the first step in the rigorous process involved in tackling the city's filthy air.

"And I will lead by example at TfL – I will phase out purchasing diesel buses and aim only to procure green buses (hybrid or zero emission) by 2018, bringing forward the requirement for all double-deck buses in central London to be 'Euro 6 hybrid' by 2019, and expanding an innovative retrofit scheme to 3,000

buses outside central London by 2020. These measures will improve air quality as well as reducing carbon emissions.

"With building emissions, which also affect air quality, I want to move to all new buildings in London to be air quality positive, which means they will have to contribute actively to a progressive reduction in the total amount of London's emissions and associated exposure. This would represent a significant change but it is completely necessary under the circumstances. I also have some asks of central government, which I hope will start treating the issue with the gravity and urgency it deserves.

"I want the Government urgently to introduce a 21st century Clean Air Act, which should enshrine in law the right to clean air and create a general competence for local authorities to tackle emission sources – such as construction activity and river vessels.

"The Government should also reform Vehicle Excise Duty to incentivise the purchase of greener, cleaner vehicles. And, in recognition of the fact that behaviour change can be difficult and costly for Londoners, I want it to introduce a significant diesel scrappage scheme, to help financially compensate vehicle owners who want to replace polluting vehicles and do the right thing."

The Mayor also wants to introduce new energy-saving ways of heating our homes and the city. He writes: "At present most Londoners heat their homes using gas boilers. These boilers produce carbon dioxide and other polluting emissions and consume a large amount of natural gas, an increasing amount of which is inefficiently 'imported' from other parts of the world. I want this to change. Where possible, we should be making more use of locally produced energy, as it is more efficient and effective, and use more of London's own energy resources, including waste heat from the Underground."

He also hints at wanting to establish City Hall's own power company.

"I plan for these new approaches to energy to come under the umbrella of my flagship scheme, 'Energy for Londoners', which will cover all aspects of energy supply and efficiency. Examples of its remit include rolling out smart meters and other technologies, supporting solar and local community energy enterprises and retrofitting buildings. I will also explore the establishment of a not-for-profit energy company to supply cleaner energy in the city. Becoming zero carbon by 2050 is ambitious, but I have set it as a target because I think London can and must play an important role in combatting climate change."

SAFER STREETS

The Mayor is insistent on making London's streets safer, with plans to include driverless cars, slower speed limits and making builders work at nights to keep lorries off the road when more pedestrians and cyclists are about.

He writes: "I will press ahead with more cycle superhighways to help commuters – importantly, learning the lessons from the construction of previous tracks and taking all measures possible to avoid disruption – for example by producing a construction timetable that is fully coordinated with other roadworks and promotes more night-time working for speedier completions.

"Crucially, 'Healthy Streets' also means safer streets. 80 per cent of all deaths and serious injuries on our roads involve vulnerable road users – pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists. No loss of life is inevitable or acceptable – so I will adopt a 'Vision Zero' approach to road safety, which puts the elimination of road danger at the very heart of the transport system.

"Fundamentally, Vision Zero means recognising that the cause of road danger is the presence of vehicles, which have the potential to do great harm, in built-up areas where people want to be. It means reducing the dominance of motor vehicles on our streets to minimise the dangers they pose to vulnerable road users.

"I will take action in other ways, by promoting the number of residential 20mph-speed-limit areas, improving bus design, working with industry to make lorries safer and considering the potential for driverless cars."

JOBS

"London has emerged as the world's pre-eminent post-industrial service-based economy and there are now a record 5.7 million jobs in the city. London's economy reflects the character of our city – global, open, innovative and dynamic. I intend to promote the city's economy by being the most pro-business Mayor ever – and I am determined to ensure that all Londoners have an opportunity to benefit equally from its success.

"I will look to protect and enhance London's global economic attributes and competitiveness. That means retaining London as an international business centre, planning transport around the Central Activity Zone to ensure people can travel to work comfortably and quickly, and increasing the supply of affordable housing in the city for a growing and increasingly skilled workforce.

"In the years ahead, businesses in London will need to draw on all possible sources of talent to steer them through the period of change. I do not set immigration rules at City Hall, but I will call on the Government to create an immigration system that keeps London open and enables London's economy to thrive and grow, which will benefit not just London but the whole of the UK.

"As well as drawing talented people from around the world, we also need to make sure we develop our home-grown skills to the utmost, and to build upon London's educational success. With the powers and funding that I hope will finally be devolved to London, I will work to improve the skills system here, ensuring provision more closely matches the needs of businesses in our growth sectors, so that all Londoners can contribute fully and benefit from the opportunities that our world-class economy generates.

"An effective way I will spread economic benefits is by promoting tourism across the whole of the city, including outside central London. Through the London Plan I want to increase hotel provision in Opportunity Areas and town centres in Outer London with good connections into the centre – in line with my vision for spatial growth.

"I will promote hidden gems to international visitors including through London & Partners, and make local public spaces more attractive and sociable. And my interventions to encourage participation in culture in all parts of the city will offer tourists even more reasons to explore the whole of our city. To accommodate more visitors overall, we need at least an additional 40,000 hotel rooms in London by 2036. And I firmly believe that London should be the best place in the world for businesses of all shapes and sizes to start up and scale. So, within all these categories, it is one of my main priorities to support small and medium-sized businesses by protecting existing workspace, identifying new workspace areas and including places of work in new housing developments. In areas where costs are very high, I want to make sure that new commercial developments include affordable business space, in line with different and changing business demands.

"My plan for Creative Enterprise Zones is designed specifically to assist the artists and creative workers who may otherwise struggle to work in London, and I also want to explore innovative financial models to support small creative businesses.

"Building on the importance of culture in all aspects of our lives, I am going to embed cultural objectives into regeneration interventions in order to improve community participation and bolster social integration. This is an important part of my 'good-growth' agenda for London."

The Mayor adds: "I am determined to have an impact as Mayor – as I want all Londoners to be able to share in the success of the city, in the same way that I did. My vision is for a strong, global, open city, which draws out the positives of population growth to serve the needs of all Londoners – for decent and affordable housing, a good transport service, a clean and green environment and access to good jobs, opportunities and world-class culture. In 2017, I will publish detailed draft versions of a wide range of strategies for full consultation, drawing on Londoners' feedback on this document. Through that process, I aim to listen to the views of stakeholders and encourage London to work with me to implement these plans for a better city."

Writing for you every week, London's most outspoken entrepreneur



Charlie pipes up!

We've had lift off at Heathrow, the green light from Nissan and the economy has grown in the three months since the European Union (EU) referendum – it's been a good week for UK plc. However, there are still at least another 120 to go before we actually find out what life outside of the EU looks like and would do well to knuckle down in the meantime for the sake of businesses everywhere.

There have been far too many column inches devoted to gloating commentators massaging their egos and telling us that they were right, the economy hasn't flat lined after the vote to leave the EU, which is great, but this isn't a football match, the issue transcends political allegiances and we must all pull in the same direction.

Instead of acting like school children in the playground, politicians and business leaders should be doubling their efforts to create an economic environment that shows the world that we're open for business and not just celebrating the fact that we avoided recession.

Doing just enough to get by is a bad strategy in all walks of life, especially in the ruthless world of business, yet I fear that's just what is happening. It's taken some of our brightest individuals almost 50 years to decide what to do about our airports, which are in desperate need of additional capacity.

By 2030, when Heathrow's third runway is complete, how long will it be before we encounter the same issue with capacity? If we're going to really attract international investors and establish infrastructure links that give our exporters a competitive advantage then we need to go the whole hog and rush through permission for Gatwick's expansion.

The same applies to businesses up and down the country; they must not get complacent or do things half-heartedly. When I set out with my bag of tools and made a few hundred pounds, which was a hell of a lot back in those days, I didn't give myself a pat on the back and put my feet up over the weekend. I worked even harder, which enabled me to hire my first employee and invest more and more in growing my business until it became the largest independent plumbing company in London.

Not one to rest on my laurels, I took the business to the next level by creating Pimlico Plumbing and Heating Merchants, which not only reduced the cost of parts but created a brand new source of income.

Well done is better than well said; proactivity is a key ingredient in the recipe for success and if we're to cook up a storm and develop a business friendly environment that will withstand the unknown come March 2019 then we had better stop all of the pointless posturing and crack on.

Views expressed are those of the author and not necessarily those of this newspaper



Support for refugees is just the ticket

BY JACK DIXON
jack@londonweeklynews.co.uk

LOCAL theatres are offering free tickets to refugee children as part of a campaign by leading figures from the arts world to prompt ministers into action.

Both the Bush Theatre in Shepherd's Bush and the Lyric in Hammersmith have thrown their support behind the free tickets initiative, which is being led by some of London's top arts and culture representatives.

More than 20 venues – including Sadler's Wells, the Royal Opera House and the Old Vic – have signed up to campaign and are calling on the Government to move faster to allow refugee children into the UK.

The collaboration of the theatre chiefs wrote to immigration minister Robert Goodwill ahead of the shutdown of the Calais 'jungle' camp last week.

They urged ministers to do "everything they can to ensure the protection of all unaccompanied children".

Theatres bosses said the offer of free tickets was "one small expression of the desire of millions of UK citizens" to do "whatever they can to welcome these vulnerable young people in a gen-



Sean Holmes, artistic director at the Lyric Hammersmith, said the free tickets idea was 'a small gesture of solidarity'

erous and open-hearted way".

Sean Holmes, artistic director at the Lyric Hammersmith, added: "As part of the community of theatres supporting this initiative, the Lyric Hammersmith is offering a welcome to young refugees and their families. It's a small gesture of solidarity but we hope an important one."

The offer came as council leaders reaffirmed their commitment to providing homes for refugee children in Hammersmith and Fulham.

Last month a crew of 40 volunteer social workers

from the borough travelled to Calais to assess and register some of the children in the camp ahead of its demolition.

Council leader Stephen Cowan and cabinet member for social inclusion Sue Fenimore also journeyed to France to visit the 'jungle'.

Cllr Cowan said: "We have foster parents standing by ready to help and will provide a safe haven for 15 refugee children who have no relatives in the UK. The Government has promised to help these children. So we are saying loud and clear that we are ready and wait-

ing for the Home Office to do the right thing."

During a town-hall debate on the refugee crisis, Conservative councillors accused the Labour leadership of organising "publicity stunts" on the subject.

Councillor Caroline Ffiske called on the council to "close the gap between rhetoric and reality".

She added: "We should be focusing here in Hammersmith and Fulham on helping vulnerable families and getting them settled here in our borough."



LIFEBOAT crews rescued four Hammersmith schoolgirls after their boat capsized in the Thames.

The rowers, from St Paul's Girls' School, had been tipped into the river after swerving to avoid another boat.

Rescue teams from the Chiswick RNLI rushed to help them after a strong current had swept the girls onto a large buoy.

RNLI helmsman Andy Mayo was in charge of the rescue boat and his colleagues Gavin Simmons and Holly Walters quickly hauled the rowers on board. The four scullers were said to be "in good spirits" following the rescue, although they were suffering from the cold. The dramatic rescue happened at around 9.30am last Tuesday (October 25) close to the Chiswick RNLI Lifeboat station. It was the team's 3,000th callout since lifeboats were established in London 14 years ago.

Art celebration

Luxury hotel chain Dorsett will play host to an array of artworks during an exhibition at its Shepherd's Bush venue this week.

The hotel's golden atrium has been filled with displays celebrating the Asian Art in London festival.

Artworks including a series of images by the acclaimed photographer Han Bing will be housed in the atrium from Thursday, November until Saturday, November 12.

Business vote

BUSINESS leaders are encouraging people in Hammersmith and Fulham to cast their votes in a nationwide competition.

HammersmithLondon – the local business improvement district – has been nominated for an environmental award for its Talgarth Road sustainable pathway scheme.

Voting closes on Sunday, November 7. Visit www.britishtobids.info/our-services/bid-awards-2016

Residents defy plan

CAMPAIGNERS determined to save their homes from demolition say they will carry on the fight after almost 100 people turned out to show their support at a public meeting.

Residents of the West Kensington and Gibbs Green estates are engaged in a bitter planning row with developer Capital and Counties over its proposals for the Earl's Court masterplan.

They fear the huge redevelopment will force them out of their homes and they have put forward their own 'People's Plan' to rebuild the estates.

A total of 94 people – including 78 estate residents – attended the annual general meeting for the West Ken Gibbs Green Community Homes organisation.

Resident Julia Lawlor gave an emotional speech at

the meeting, explaining that four generations of her family had lived in her current home.

She said: "If I wanted to move I would have done so a long time ago. This is a special place and we are not going without a fight."

The developer has already been granted planning permission for the project, which it says will create 1,500 affordable homes and £500 million in community benefits.

A spokesman said: "The New Homes Space, which showcases the new homes estate residents will receive, has been open to estates residents for some months and hundreds of people have viewed what their new homes will be like. The overwhelming majority tell us that they like what they see."

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The Old War Office on Horseguards Avenue is to become a luxury hotel

Churchill's Old War Office to become a luxury hotel

by Adrian Hearn

PLANS for a £1 billion project to transform The Old War Office into one of London's finest hotels and apartment blocks have been revealed.

The grand Whitehall building, which has featured in James Bond films and was used by Sir Winston Churchill, was sold by the Ministry of Defence to the Hinduja brothers for £350 million in March.

They took out a 250-year lease and have teamed up with EPR Architects to convert the Grade II listed building and its 1,100 rooms into a "world class hotel" which they claim will set new standards in luxury.

Documents submitted to Westminster Council this month reveal plans for a 125-room hotel with a 600-person ballroom, restaurants, retail units and a rooftop bar.

There will also be 88 apartments made up of one, two, three, four and five bedroom flats and luxury leisure

facilities.

In the proposals, EPR Architects describe The Old War Office as of "unquestionable historic significance, constructed at a time the British Empire was at its zenith".

They are calling it a "once in a lifetime opportunity" to secure the heritage of the building and grant it a new life for future generations.

It is made up of 25 million bricks and 30,000 tonnes of Portland and York stone. There are two-and-a-half miles of corridors, many of which are 10-feet wide.

The plans have been met with mixed views from locals and property experts in the area.

The Westminster Society is supporting the scheme, which they have described as being "well thought



Sir Winston Churchill

through".

However, one resident in a seventh storey apartment opposite has objected to the additional levels which they claim will obliterate the view from their living, dining and bedroom windows.

When the trophy asset was openly marketed in 2014 it was expected to attract bids of around £100 million.

The Hinduja Brothers, in partnership with OHL Desarrollos, ended up spending £350 million on the 580,000 sq/ft property.

If the central London project gets the go-ahead then it is likely to be worth in excess of £1 billion when completed.



A stunning staircase shows the magnificent interior of the building



Illustration showing Lord Kitchener receiving Lord Roberts at his desk in the Old War Office



The building has two-and-a-half miles of corridor, many of which are 10 feet wide

■ THE Old War Office was completed at a cost of £1.2 million in 1906 and was used by Sir Winston Churchill and Lord Kitchener.

The building is located on Horse Guards Avenue at its junction with Whitehall. It contains about 1,000 rooms across seven floors, linked by 2½ miles of corridors. The construction of the War Office building took five years.

The building is somewhat oddly shaped, forming a trapezium in order to maximise the usage of the irregularly shaped plot of land on which it was built. Its four distinctive domes were designed as a decorative means of disguising the building's shape.

In October 1940 four bombs hit the building, causing superficial damage and killing one person.

It was hit by a further seven bombs during the war but damage to the building remained minimal.

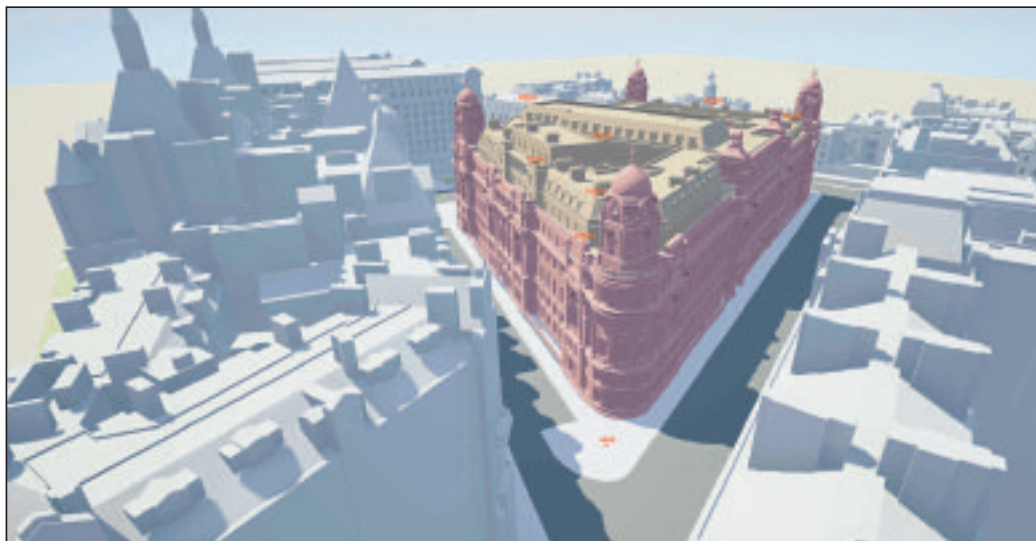


The building continued to be used by the Ministry of Defence and is not open to the public. In August 2013 it was announced that the building would be put up for sale on the open market with the aim of realising offers in excess of £100 million.

In October 1940 four bombs hit the building, causing superficial damage and killing one person.

It was hit by a further seven bombs during the war but damage to the building remained minimal.

The War Office was abolished in 1964 but the building continued to be used by the Ministry of Defence until its sale this year.



The architects' impression shows the unusual shape of the building

Luxury care for dementia sufferers comes at a cost of £2,000 a week

THE UK's first luxury 'five star' care home for people suffering from dementia has been launched - with prices starting at £2,000 per week.

Residents of Chelsea Court Place have a cinema, library and 24-hour kitchen where meals are put together by an award-winning chef.

To keep residents stimulated, there is pet therapy, cooking, craft lessons, gardening, music and daily exercise programmes including Zumba and yoga.

There are also spa therapies and beauty and grooming services available in the hydrotherapy room.

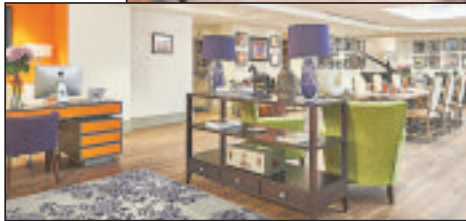
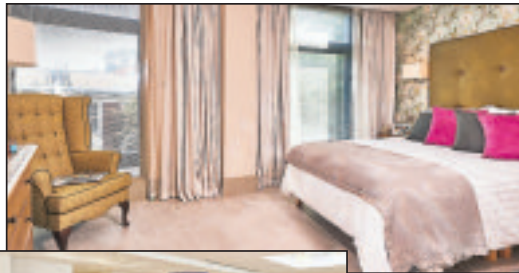
The home has 15 premium en-suite apartments, with rooms personally customised with the help of the residence's interior designer.

It has been designed to emulate the design of private members' club and cater to the unique needs of memory care residents.

The purpose-built residential and day care centre, which is staffed by dementia experts, is located on the corner of the prestigious King's Road in London.

Residents get round-the-clock nursing care, 24 hour concierge, tailored individual daily activities and events and access to the cinema, library and indoor garden.

Food will be provided by head chef, Matt Dodge, and sous chef



Rooms by the interior designer at Chelsea Court Place

a dementia diagnosis in London and 17,000 new cases being diagnosed each year. Innovative Aged Care has plans to continue expanding in London to service the growing demand of specialist memory care.

Alex Mortean.

Prices at the centre start from £2,000 per week and include all bills and wifi.

It is open to dementia and Alzheimer's sufferers of any age and individuals are eligible for Government-funded contributions subject to assessment.

The centre, set up by Innovative Aged Care, has been launched in Chelsea because it has been predicted the royal borough will have the highest growth in new dementia diagnosis in the capital over the next 20 years.

Currently the borough has the smallest number of beds for dementia residents, with a ratio of only 0.2 dementia beds per 100.

With 64,400 people living with

Guy Geller, chairman of Chelsea Court Place, said: "We have created a beautiful home and concept that doesn't restrict the freedom of our residents."

"There will be ample staff to ensure members are able to go for a walk outside and enjoy the beautiful surroundings as well as sleep, eat and bathe at their leisure."

"We encourage our residents to retain their independence and mobility and our devoted team will be on hand to support them, every step of the way."

Chelsea Court Place is being run on a day-to-day basis by general manager Dr Christine Bunce and managing director James Cook.



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Politicians unite to oppose

BY JACK DIXON
jack@londonweeklynews.co.uk

POLITICAL adversaries will put down their swords and stand shoulder to shoulder this week as Londoners form a united front against the Government's "outrageous" decision to back a third runway at Heathrow airport.

Town Hall chiefs in Hammersmith and Fulham – from both the Labour and Conservative ranks – are leading the charge against expansion as

former foes join forces for the battle ahead.

Giants of London's political battleground are also expected to unite in opposition to a third runway this week, with the prospect of Mayor Sadiq Khan and his predecessor Boris Johnson sharing a platform.

The closing of ranks was triggered last week by the Government's momentous decision to publically support the creation of an extra runway at the UK's largest airport.

It prompted a series of envi-



The Government has decided to publically support the creation of an extra runway at Heathrow

ronmental organisations, pressure groups and local councils to threaten legal action in a bid to block the expansion.

Now, after years of wrangling over the need for extra capacity, Londoners are gearing up for an almighty struggle to stop the capital becoming a "city of planes".

Hammersmith and Fulham council's Labour leader Stephen Cowan stood united with Conservative opposition leader Greg Smith against the plan.

Cllr Cowan said: "This administration is thoroughly opposed to Prime Minister Theresa May's decision to progress the Heathrow third runway option.

"I do, however, agree with what Mrs May said in 2009 when she advised all of us that 'A third runway will result in thousands of additional flights, increased noise and more pollution for thousands of people'. That's not a price the residents of Hammersmith & Fulham should pay.

"The government must show leadership and pursue other, more environmentally positive, options."

Cllr Smith said: "Hammersmith and Fulham Conservatives have always opposed the expansion of Heathrow airport and will continue to do so."

In a strongly-worded attack, Sadiq Khan accused the Government of "running roughshod over Londoners' views" and warned of a "devastating" impact on air quality and noise pollution for those living under the new flight paths.

He added: "I will continue to challenge this decision and I am exploring how I can best be involved in any legal process over the coming months.

"Most urgently, the Government must set out how it's possible for Londoners not to suffer from the additional air and noise pollution that we know will be created by an additional runway at Heathrow.

"They also need to guarantee that they will fully fund the billions of pounds needed to improve road and rail connections to Heathrow – Londoners cannot be expected to pick up the bill for this."

Conservative political heavyweights were also queuing up to criticise the decision last week as Foreign



Zac Goldsmith, whose resignation has triggered a by-election in Richmond Park, said he would stand again as an independent, promising to make the campaign a 'referendum on Heathrow'

Secretary Boris Johnson declared the third runway "undeliverable" and ex-Tory mayoral candidate Zac Goldsmith resigned as the MP for Richmond Park.

Mr Johnson said the "hell of aircraft noise" would lead to an "unacceptable erosion" of Londoners' quality of life.

"No other city would

dream of subjecting so many hundreds of thousands of people to more noise pollution in the way that a third runway would," he told the BBC.

"What I worry about is that, down the line, if and when a third runway were to be built, there would be an overwhelming clamour to build a fourth runway as soon as it was completed and then what would London be like? You would have New York – the city of skyscrapers; Paris – the city of light; and London – the city of planes. Is that really what we want for our fantastic capital city?"

Mr Goldsmith, whose resignation has triggered a by-election in Richmond Park, said he would stand again as an independent, promising to make the campaign a "referendum on Heathrow".

He also claimed the complexity of legal questions and costs would ultimately prevent a third runway from getting off the ground.

Hammersmith and Fulham's resident-led Airports Commission concluded nearly two years ago that Heathrow expansion would have a severe detrimental impact on quality of life for people living in the borough.

Heathrow said the decision would "keep Britain growing" at the heart of the global economy, while delivering competition and choice for passengers.



Town Hall chiefs in Hammersmith and Fulham – from both the Labour and Conservative ranks – are leading the charge against Heathrow expansion as former foes join forces for the battle ahead

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third runway at Heathrow

For and against: the Heathrow view

London MEP Syed Kamall
London could have had a new airport for the future, rather than this expensive stop-gap solution.

Last year, I gathered together people from Fosters & Partners with sovereign wealth funds representing over a trillion dollars and they told me that if the Government gave the go ahead, London would get a new airport, probably somewhere on the Thames estuary.

They told me that the UK was a reliable investment, a global hub of trade and commerce, and from their point of view, a safe bet.

Heathrow expansion is merely a sticking plaster and won't solve the long-term demand for airport capacity.

If Britain is to thrive, we need to be sending out a bold message to the world that we are a forward-thinking nation, looking to the future. Not a place where we just stick a plaster over the cracks.

Heathrow is going to reach capacity again within a few years. The Department for Transport's own figures show 50 per cent more people will travel through UK airports by 2030, so if we expand Heathrow with one runway or two, where do we build after that? Do we bulldoze Windsor or Southall, or go south?

And then there are the obvious safety concerns of large airliners flying over London too. It doesn't take a scientist to work out that noise and pollution will inevitably increase over large parts of London, despite improvements in both.

If there was no alternative then I could understand - but there is an alternative. Why waste money now on a stop-gap when we could be building for the future?

Our economy needs a new airport for the future. We must lead the world. We have a solution but this announcement is ignoring it.

Charlie Mullins, Pimlico Plumbers founder

I am calling on the Government to grant immediate permission for a new runway to be built at Gatwick, in addition to Heathrow, for the sake of the UK economy.

We've been kicking the idea of an additional runway around since the 1970s and it's about time someone finally made a decision.

The fact is that we need extra capacity at our airports otherwise the economy will not fulfil its potential.

This, however, is only the first step to solving our problem. It shouldn't have been an 'either or' decision - we need an extra runway at both Heathrow and Gatwick.

In the wake of the referendum result, the UK needs to

show to the world it is open for business and politicians cannot afford to sit around and talk for another 10 years.

If both runways were to be built it would provide a huge boost to local employment, although due to our structural skills gap we may need to pick up the phone to the Chinese if it is to be completed this side of the century.

Deidre Wells OBE, chief executive of tourism trade association UKInbound

UKInbound is delighted that a decision has been made by the Government and that the building of a new runway at London Heathrow will now move forward.

Seventy-one per cent of inbound visitors fly to this country and the expansion of our global gateway - London Heathrow - is crucial to the UK's future growth.

We would like to congratulate London Heathrow and also urge the airport to swiftly move forward with the development of a third runway.

With overseas visitor spending accounting for £22 billion in export earnings and tourism the UK's third biggest employer, it's imperative that work to expand the UK's airport capacity faces no further delays.

The UK's tourism industry is predicted to continue its rapid growth as a key destination for leisure and business travellers.

Given this, we ask the Government to develop a transport infrastructure to match demand and that a second runway at London Gatwick not be dismissed in the long-term.

Dale Keller, chief executive of the Board of Airline Representatives in the UK (BAR UK)

We welcome that a decision has finally been made to allow an additional runway at Heathrow - and yet for us this is simply the beginning and the real work starts now.

We look forward to engaging closely with the Government and Heathrow Airport Limited during the public consultation and National Policy Statement process that follows, to ensure that the new capacity can be financed without pre-funding by today's passengers and be delivered on-time and at a cost that is affordable to airlines and the travelling public.

The new runway will deliver further vital connectivity for the whole of the UK's economy in an increasingly globalised world.

Caroline Russell AM, Green Party London Assembly Member

The decision to choose Heathrow as the preferred option, depending on the final vote next year, has offered temporary relief for the

people living under the new flight paths but prolonged their anguish as they wait another 12 months to find out their fate. Imagine a motorbike zooming outside your front door from morning to night - this will be the new reality for west Londoners who will be blighted by more air pollution and intrusive noise because of this miserable decision.

This is a two-pronged problem for west Londoners. As well as contending with noisy flights, their local roads and public transport will be clogged with increased traffic, worsening their daily journeys and exacerbating air pollution.

There is no way expansion should even be on the table when air pollution in Heathrow already exceeds legal limits.

This is a bad decision that will accelerate climate change and makes a mockery of the Government's announcement to ratify the Paris Agreement.

I am calling on the Mayor of London to influence the Government to make sure alternatives to yet more expansion are explored.

Annually there are around 10 million seats of unused capacity on the Eurostar and a frequent flyer levy could help use existing runways more efficiently.

The Mayor should, for example, convince the Government to renegotiate the current Eurotunnel fee structure that means both trains and passengers pay arbitrary fees and makes international train travel so expensive.

Transport for London estimates that £18 billion of investment will be needed to upgrade the transport infrastructure around an expanded Heathrow with just £1 billion coming from Heathrow.

The Mayor must explain how TfL's finances will cope with the additional pressure if this does happen.

He should also set out how he will ensure the clean air savings his Ultra-Low Emissions Zone might bring can be safeguarded against emissions from Heathrow expansion.

Mike Cherry, national chairman of the Federation of Small Businesses

This decision on airport capacity is a welcome boost for British business, which could deliver up to £211 billion of extra economic growth, 180,000 jobs and double the apprenticeships at Heathrow to a total of 10,000.

We now need to see budgets committed and shovels in the ground as soon as possible.

The green light for a major infrastructure project like this is essential to increasing exports, jobs and growth throughout the UK, with more long-haul routes and double the capacity for

freight.

We have already worked closely with Heathrow to guarantee small firms will play a major part in the huge £16bn procurement exercise to build the runway and associated works.

When the runway is built, FSB members will want to see promises for increased regional connectivity delivered, in addition to new routes to overseas destinations - boosting freight exports and connecting our world-beating businesses to new markets.

At a time when FSB's latest small business confidence index shows 62 per cent of small firms view the domestic economy as a barrier to growth, this is a clear signal Britain is open for business.

John Holland-Kaye, chief executive, Heathrow Airport

The team at Heathrow are starting the important work to deliver the vital new runway that the UK needs to compete in the world. A new runway will open trade routes and create jobs up and down the UK. Heathrow will play a key role in making our country stronger and fairer for everyone.

We look forward to working with the Government, businesses, airlines, the CAA and our local communities to deliver an airport that is fair, affordable and secures the ben-

efits of expansion for the whole of the UK.

Stewart Wingate, chief executive, Gatwick Airport

We are disappointed as we do not believe this is the right answer for Britain. Gatwick has put forward a credible financeable and deliverable plan for expansion.

It is a plan that can guarantee growth and guarantee certainty for Britain. We look forward to studying the full reasons behind the Government's decision in detail.

The challenges facing Heathrow have not changed. Our message today is that Gatwick stands ready to proceed when the time comes.

Sadiq Khan, London Mayor

This is the wrong decision for London and the whole of Britain. The Government are running roughshod over Londoners' views.

Just five months ago I was elected as mayor on a clear platform of opposing a new runway at Heathrow - a position that was shared by the Conservative, Liberal Democrat, Green and UKIP candidates in that election.

A new runway at Heathrow will be devastating for air quality across London - air pollution around the airport is already above legal levels of NO2.

Heathrow already exposes

more people to aircraft noise than Paris CDG, Frankfurt, Amsterdam, Munich and Madrid combined. A third runway would mean an extra 200,000 people impacted, exposing 124 more schools and 43,200 more schoolchildren to an unacceptable level of noise.

An expanded Gatwick would have boosted our economy without causing these huge air and noise pollution problems and it could be built quicker and cheaper.

I will continue to challenge this decision and I am exploring how I can best be involved in any legal process over the coming months.

Most urgently, the Government must set out how it's possible for Londoners not to suffer from the additional air and noise pollution that we know will be created by an additional runway at Heathrow.

They also need to guarantee that they will fully fund the billions of pounds needed to improve road and rail connections to Heathrow - Londoners cannot be expected to pick up the bill for this.

What's your view?

Share your point of view on the controversial Heathrow expansion plans. Please email LondonWeeklyNewsreporter@londonweeklynews.com or jack@londonweeklynews.com

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Less than a month ago, our sister paper, the **South London Press**, launched a campaign to tackle the stigma around mental health and raise important funds to pay for life-changing treatments. The response from readers, among them many who take the **London Weekly News**, has been staggering, with thousands of pounds being donated.

We have teamed up with local charity Lambeth and Southwark Mind to shine a light on the hidden health problems in our community and make a real difference to thousands of lives.

Our **Change Is Possible** appeal aims to banish many of the stereotypes and misconceptions that surround mental health. But we are also on a mission to raise tens of thousands of pounds for Lambeth and Southwark Mind, whose staff, trustees and volunteers work tirelessly every day to improve the health and wellbeing of some of south London's most vulnerable people. Here, reporter **Jack Dixon** enlists the support of South London MPs to the **Change Is Possible** campaign



Pictured: Labour MPs Heidi Alexander and Chuka Umunna with charity representatives – and copies of the South London Press campaign launch edition – in Westminster on Tuesday

MPs back campaign to expose hidden mental health crisis

EXCLUSIVE

BY JACK DIXON
jack@londonweeklynews.co.uk

South London MPs pledged to take the fight for better mental health all the way to Westminster this week, as senior politicians lined up to support the *South London Press Change Is Possible* campaign.

A team of top politicians came forward to endorse the appeal, which aims to reduce the stigma around mental health in south London and raise vital funds for Lambeth and Southwark Mind.

Labour MPs Heidi Alexander, Neil Coyle, Jim Dowd, Vicky Foxcroft, Helen Hayes and Chuka Umunna all signed up to support the campaign, standing shoulder to shoulder with charity representatives in Westminster on Tuesday.

It is the first political endorsement for our appeal and comes as the fundraising total nears its next major milestone of £5,000.

Heidi Alexander, who represents Lewisham East and

served as shadow health secretary until earlier this year, urged readers to support our “life-saving” campaign.

“For too long mental health hasn’t been given the priority it deserves,” she said.

“When you’ve got a broken leg, everyone sees it. When you’re suffering from poor

mental health, the effects can be no less debilitating but all too often it’s not thought to be so serious. Nothing could be further from the truth.

“I urge everyone to get behind the campaign. If you can give, please be as generous as you can. If you can’t, speak to a friend or neighbour and

spread the word. It really could be life-saving.”

Streatham MP Chuka Umunna said mental health was a “cradle to grave issue” that required closer attention within the NHS.

He added: “While stigmatisation around mental health is being challenged, far too many people in this country still feel as if they have to pretend they have something else wrong with them when they are struggling with a mental health condition.

“By raising funds for new support groups, staff and facilities, Mind is playing an important role in supplying vital services and tackling stigma around mental health in south London.”

Mind has lobbied the Government to commit to a series of strategies designed to improve the treatment of people with mental health problems.

It has consistently called for parity of funding between mental and physical health problems, while pressing ministers to improve access to talking therapies and crisis care. But we hope the support of our local MPs will now make a huge difference in driving mental health up the political agenda.

South London Press directors Philip Evans and Hannah Walker welcomed the endorsement as a key step forward in our campaign for change.

They said: “We are delighted to see that so many of our local parliamentary representatives share our passion and we are sure they will do everything they can to promote the cause among their colleagues in Westminster.”

‘A GREAT WAY TO HELP’

Jim Dowd, Lewisham West and Penge



“Mental health is often referred to as the ‘Cinderella’ of the NHS both because of the huge number of people who suffer with these problems and that, compared to other areas of the health service, it receives proportionately much lower funding. One in four people will experience a mental health problem but barely a quarter of these will receive sufficient help. More needs to be done to tackle this issue.”

Vicky Foxcroft, Lewisham Deptford



“The *South London Press* and Lambeth and Southwark Mind *Change Is Possible* campaign looks to be a great way to help tackle the stigma surrounding mental health. Raising awareness and hearing people talk openly about their stories can give vulnerable people the confidence to reach out and seek support.”

Neil Coyle, Bermondsey and Old Southwark



“My whole life has involved mental health awareness as my mum has schizophrenia. This shaped some of my earliest and most difficult memories but watching her and our wider family not get the help needed raised my awareness of how poorly we as a country treat mental health problems and their impact. Coalition and current Government cuts have hit mental health services badly and left south London with insufficient services, with the police often left to deal with the consequences. Raising awareness and seeking better support now should be a priority for us all.”

Helen Hayes, Dulwich and West Norwood



“Anyone can experience mental health problems but mental health services do not receive adequate resources and stigma sadly still means that we don’t talk about our mental health enough. That makes local services like Lambeth and Southwark Mind all the more important. They do such valuable work to improve the wellbeing of those struggling with mental health issues and they will be able to achieve even more with the money raised by the *Change Is Possible* campaign.”

southlondonpress



Help us support lives blighted by mental ill health



Plea to help island horror crash victim

Hard up health workers forced to use food banks

BY JACK DIXON

jack@londonweeklynews.co.uk

HARD-pressed health service workers in London are turning to high-rate loans, pawning their belongings and visiting food banks as they struggle to make ends meet, a leading union has claimed.

Unison said financial hardship had led to almost half of its members in the health service seeking help from friends and family in the last year alone.

The shock findings were revealed in the union's annual survey of health staff, underlining the human cost of pay freezes over several years.

It found that more than one in 10 workers had sold off possessions in order to ease their cash flow concerns while a similar proportion had leant on payday loans companies to help them cope.

Many felt the financial squeeze so acutely that it affected their homes, with 15 per cent either moving to a less costly property or freeing up money by re-mortgaging.

Just over one in eight had sought the help of a debt advice service to combat their money problems.

The union said the situation was now so dire that one per cent of members had even visited food banks to collect emergency supplies.

Christina McAnea, Unison's head of health, warned of an "exodus" of health workers unless the pay issue was addressed.

"These figures paint a shocking picture of the effects of pay restraint on hardworking NHS staff," she said.

"They are having to sell or pawn their belongings, move house or ask relatives for financial help while doing critical and life-saving jobs in our health service.

"NHS staff are now 14 per cent worse off than they were in 2010, NHS finances are tighter than ever, pressure and demand in the system continues to grow, inflation is expected to rise – and something has to give."

She added: "The Government needs to act now, starting with a clear strategy for improving pay before the situation deteriorates even further and we are faced with an exodus of hard-working, caring staff."

Unison said the "extreme difficulties" faced by many workers were underlined by the number that were supplementing their income with extra work. Almost one in five admitted to taking on further work to top up their take-home pay.

Worryingly, more than four fifths of health workers surveyed said they had considered leaving and over half said they were serious about quitting.

One London worker who took part in the survey said: "I am financially worse off now than seven years ago, as are most of my colleagues.

"I can't even afford to send my children to extra-curricular clubs like cub scouts and football.

"I have never felt as demoralised and worthless as I do right now."

Unison has called for a pay increase for health service workers in line with the cost of living, as well as the introduction of a UK-wide pay scale.

Unhealthy diets storing up a major crisis

AFTER years of health warnings about the risks of a junk food diet, new research reveals Londoners are still not eating the recommended five portions of fruit and vegetables a day.

Major charities teamed up with a leading supermarket this week to stress the benefits of a healthy diet amid rising levels of type 2 diabetes and heart disease.

A major survey found that a shocking 85 per cent of adult Londoners were failing to get their five-a-day, despite worrying about how a poor diet could damage their health.

Around 630,000 people in London are currently living with heart and circulatory disease, while tens of thousands more are saddled with type 2 diabetes. Both conditions are associated with unhealthy diets.

The National Charity Partnership – a collabora-

tion between Diabetes UK, the British Heart Foundation and Tesco – is now stepping forward to urge Londoners to change their bad habits or risk developing killer conditions in the future.

Babs Evans, head of prevention for the partnership, warned that the UK was heading for a "major health crisis" unless there were drastic changes in eating habits.

"Many thousands of people in London already live with type 2 diabetes and heart and circulatory disease. These conditions are potentially life-threatening – but also largely preventable," she said.

"If our eating habits don't change to include more healthy options like fruit and vegetables, the UK as a whole could be heading towards a major health crisis."



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Anxious times at Kensington

THESE must be anxious times at Kensington Palace, as William, Kate and Harry wait to see if their determined plan for a better way for dealing with mental health is going to go transatlantic or if it is going to be dashed back to a darker age.

A bigger picture for mental health has been envisaged by the young royals and their plan is already gaining much support and a great deal of coverage as they strive to break down a fundamental misunderstanding that there is no difference between breaking your leg and breaking your mind.

For centuries, there has been a huge disparity in the difference in our attitudes to physical and mental health. For the former, we have funded much research into new medicines and cures for various diseases. But for the latter, our feeling has tended towards the resignation that it is somewhat incurable, best to just tranquillise its sufferers and in extreme cases lock them away.

The fulcrum of the philosophy behind the Heads Together campaign of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and Prince Harry challenges this thinking. Their view appears to be the wiser take, that illness of the mind is no more weird or stigmatising than illness of the body.

Prince William spelled this out recently when he, Kate and Harry hosted an awareness drive on World Mental Health Day.

In a joint speech the royals made an impassioned plea for society to recognise the proliferation of mental-health problems, saying the sooner everyone reaches out to help the better.

Prince William told guests that “we all have mental health like we do physical health, good or ill”. He said mental health isn’t “a dirty word”.

He said: “Not seeking help at those times when it all seems too much, or we are depressed or anxious, can impact the rest of our lives. Put simply, the three of us want to make asking for help no longer a big deal.”

Referring to his day job, Prince William said: “Personally, in my work at the air ambulance, I see how colleagues and families help each other through traumatic moments. The three of us have learned a lot in the past few months as we have met people. The conclusion we are coming to is that the more we all talk about this, the more collectively as a society we can do to support one another.”

He was backed up by his brother, who said: “It’s not rocket science but most of us don’t know what to do if a friend or family member is suffering. Having some basic knowledge, and having the confidence to act on your knowledge, can make a huge difference to those around us.”

“As William said earlier, we all have mental health, just as we all have physical health. Too often we think mental-health problems are things that happen to other people, not us. But we will all experience pressure on our mental health at some point during our life. The more we accept that, the better we can help each other. Catching it and recognising it early saves lives.”

The young royals are throwing every effort that they can make into affecting turning the tide of our attitudes against mental illness; from enlisting competitors to run in support of mental-health charities in next year’s London Marathon – on which platform Prince Harry says: “If you are already running, or planning to run for another great cause, there will be lots of other ways to show your support and help make it the



The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and Prince Harry have a determined plan for a better way to deal with mental health – and will no doubt be hoping Hillary Clinton, who is a fan of their thinking, beats Donald Trump in the race for the White House this month

marathon for mental health; together, we can start the biggest ever national movement to end stigma on mental health and change the conversation for everyone” – to Kate penning the foreword for a new book of puzzles created by the code-breakers of GCHQ in aid of Heads Together.

The Duchess writes: “William, Harry and I are very grateful that this book is supporting our Heads Together campaign. I hope it will not only amuse and challenge readers but help to promote an open discussion of mental-health problems, which can affect anyone regardless of age or background.”

“Together, we are aiming to change the national conversation around mental health from stigma and fear to openness and understanding. Those who buy this book and support the Heads Together campaign will be playing a part in helping people get the important mental-health care they deserve.”

Kate writes of the “national conversation” but she, William and Harry know that to truly effect a difference in our attitude to mental health then it needs to be made an international effort.

And, as is the way with most things from the motor car to the computer, if you want to make improvement then you have to get America behind it – because like it or not the American way has the greatest influence on the thinking of the planet.

Which brings us back to the anxious times at Kensington Palace, as they wait alongside the rest of us for the result of the presidential election.

Prince Harry has already made great advances in steering the USA around to his thinking on the matter of mental health, most especially with how it afflicts those who, like him, are veterans of the war zones.

In May, at the start of Harry’s Invictus Games, the worldwide sporting event that celebrates wounded veterans, he stressed that war wounds can be mind wounds when he went on television to speak with first lady Michelle Obama about the importance of seeking help for psychological disorders like post traumatic stress disorder.



“Mental illness is not a life sentence,” Prince Harry said during an appearance with Mrs Obama on *Good Morning America*. “If you open up and speak about it and get the right help as soon as possible, then you can find coping mechanisms and you can get your life back on track.”

“A lot of veterans have never had a chance to really talk about their feelings and their emotions. The worst thing when you’re in the Forces is trying to talk about your issues and people not accepting them and people not understanding it. It’s a hidden injury. Mental health is a sensitive subject among a lot of people – but it doesn’t need to be. We need to talk to about it more, get rid of the stigma.”

Harry’s stand in the US has won applause from influential thinkers. The mighty *Huffington Post* commented: “He’s absolutely correct. The negative perceptions around mental-health conditions often prevent people from seeking treatment – but a greater, cultural conversation around them could help alleviate that. As many as 20 per cent of American veterans who served in Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom have PTSD. And nearly 20 former service members die by suicide each day.”

“The prince’s advocacy couldn’t be more necessary during a time when veteran mental health is at the forefront of the political narrative here at home. Ultimately, there needs to be more compassion toward veterans who may be dealing with a mental-health issue and awareness that experiencing one is not a weakness.”

Another fan of Harry’s thinking and that of his brother and sister-in-law is Hillary Clinton.

“I believe that together we can make sure that the next generation



gets quality mental-healthcare – without shame, without stigma, without barriers,” Mrs Clinton says in a statement, on her campaign website, which echoes the attitudes of the royals. The Democrat candidate has proposed the most far-sighted agenda on improving mental health which has ever been thought of by any would-be president.

Her spokesman said: “Hillary Clinton has announced her comprehensive plan to support Americans living with mental-health problems and illnesses – by integrating our healthcare systems and finally putting the treatment of mental health on par with that of physical health.”

“Nearly a fifth of all adults in the US, more than 40 million people, are coping with a mental-health problem. Close to 14 million people live with a serious mental illness such as schizophrenia or bipolar disorder. Moreover, many of these individuals have additional complicating life circumstances, such as drug or alcohol addiction, homelessness, or involvement with the criminal justice system.”

“Veterans are in acute need of mental healthcare, with close to 20 per cent of those returning from the Iraq and Afghanistan wars experiencing post-traumatic stress or depression. And the problem is not limited to adults: an estimated 17 million children in the US experience mental-health problems, as do one in four college students.”

“Americans with mental-health conditions and their families need our support. The economic impact of mental illness is enormous – at nearly \$200 billion per year nationwide in lost earnings – and the human cost is worse.

“Too many Americans are being

left to face mental-health problems on their own, and too many individuals are dying prematurely from associated health conditions.

“We must do better. To date in this campaign, Hillary set out policies that will direct support to individuals with mental-health problems and their families – including a detailed agenda to support military service members and veterans, an initiative to end America’s epidemic of drug and alcohol addiction, and a robust caregivers’ agenda. Now she is building on those proposals with a comprehensive agenda on mental health.”

Mrs Clinton’s plan would:

- Promote early diagnosis and intervention, including launching a national initiative for suicide prevention.
- Integrate mental and physical healthcare systems so that healthcare delivery focuses on the “whole person,” and significantly enhance community-based treatment.
- Improve criminal justice outcomes by training law enforcement officers in crisis intervention, and prioritising treatment over jail for non-violent, low-level offenders.
- Enforce mental-health parity to the full extent of the law.
- Improve access to housing and job opportunities.
- Invest in brain and behavioural research and developing safe and effective treatments.

Mrs Clinton’s spokesman said: “As a down-payment on this agenda, Hillary will convene a White House conference on mental health during her first year as president.

“Her goal is that within her time in office, Americans will no longer separate mental health from physical health when it comes to access to care or quality of treatment. The next generation must grow up knowing that mental health is a key component of overall health and there is no shame, stigma or barriers to seeking out care.”

This and the tens of thousands of other words on her website detailing the ambitious, thorough and widespread changes that Mrs Clinton wants to effect to better the life of those who are ill of the mind must be good news to the young British royals who would gladly welcome a transatlantic effort that would in turn influence and change world thinking on the problem.

So where’s any reason for anxious times at Kensington Palace?

It is in this: in his agenda on healthcare, besides arguing that Obamacare must be repealed and complaining that “providing healthcare to illegal immigrants costs us some \$11 billion annually”, Donald Trump offers just 53 words of non-specific thought on the subject on mental health: “We need to reform our mental-health programs and institutions in this country. Families, without the ability to get the information needed to help those who are ailing, are too often not given the tools to help their loved ones. There are promising reforms being developed in congress that should receive bi-partisan support.”

One could argue that 53 words do not exactly constitute a much-considered policy and that these 53 in particular do not exactly imply a great commitment to the issue.

While the royals pride themselves on not wanting to influence public opinion, let alone attempt to openly steer votes in a presidential election, one could easily understand if William, Kate and Harry with their Heads Together campaign hope that the vote goes a certain way.

TELEVISION chiefs are in a flap as the hunt is on for the next royal blockbuster. As “royals mean ratings” becomes the new buzzphrase in meetings to brainstorm the big television hit, the smart money is going on the little-known story of the King whom the Queen used to call Grandpa England.

From Friday, Her Majesty and Prince Philip will find themselves back in the unusual position of finding their lives dramatised for the fascination of millions as Netflix’s £100 million, seven-series saga *The Crown* begins to tell the “inside story” on the reign of our times.

Although most homes don’t yet have the Netflix feed, the thinking of very smart and calculating men is that many will sign up for the US streaming system by the lure of *The Crown* in which Claire Foy plays the Queen from the time of her marriage up to now.

The series has already attracted massive publicity and there will be loads more to come, not least if it is divulged by Buckingham Palace whether Her Majesty likes it or not.

Either way, it is set to become a winner because audiences love a good royal story. The success of *The Queen*, in which Helen Mirren played Her Majesty in the dark days after the death of Diana, is evidence of that.

So too was the reception, critical and financial, to *The King’s Speech*, in which Colin Firth played the Duke of York, later to become King George VI, as he battled to conquer a debilitating stammer. Made on a budget of £8 million, the movie took more than £250 million at box offices internationally.

More recently, ITV’s *Victoria* has proved itself the royal television hit of the year and there is much more of Daisy Goodwin’s charming love story to come in coming years as ITV has quickly realised that it is on to a ratings winner and has commissioned at least one more series and a Christmas special for 2017.

Now, with *The Crown* set to be a global sensation, producers and writers are close to pulling their hair out in a fervid search to find another cracking royal saga.

Nowhere is the hunt more intense than at the BBC, which has not had a good modern royal blockbuster for some time. Yes, BBC Two made a grand effort of *Wolf Hall* but that Tudor saga was centuries old and the ratings successes of the above indicate that it is the royal events of more recent times that get the best results.

Obvious contenders like the Charles and Diana story and the life of the Duke of Windsor and “That Woman” are said to have been discounted as probably too controversial and the William and Kate story would run the risk of being savaged by critics as being too obvious a cash-in.

But the life of George V has all the drama, heartache and eventfulness to fit the bill.

George Frederick Ernest Albert Saxe Coburg-Gotha, as his full name might have appeared on a driving licence had he needed one, was not born to be king. That destiny fell to his older brother, Prince Albert Victor, Duke of Clarence and Avondale. But when Eddy, as he was known to his family, fell victim to the flu pandemic at the age of 28, the prospect of becoming King-Emperor of the British Empire loomed for George.

A good dramatist could make

Grandpa England



Above, King George V with his granddaughters, Princess Elizabeth – now Queen Elizabeth II – and Princess Margaret. Right, George as a boy. Far right, the King visits one of the battlefields of the First World War

compelling television series of the life of George. At the age of just 12 he was sent from the palace to Dartmouth to join the Navy as his father thought that this was the best possible training for a boy. It would not take a great imagination to think up gripping scenes of a child confused and doubtless homesick having to endure learning the ropes at the HMS Britannia cadet training ship, with only his big brother and his status to protect him from inevitable bullying.

Then there’s the three years that the young royal boys spent at sea, touring the world and during which time George got a tattoo – of a red and blue dragon on his arm, inked-in on a visit to Japan – and the voyage when both he and his brother reportedly sighted the mythical ghost ship *The Flying Dutchman*.

There are strong love stories to also be in the plot. First, the forbidden love between George and Marie of Edinburgh, his first cousin for whom he fell – only to see a union opposed and blocked by their mothers, on the grounds that his mum thought her family too pro-German and her mum disliking England.

Then George found happiness with his brother’s fiancée, Princess Victoria Mary of Teck, known to the family as May, who grew close to her intended’s brother in the time when they were mourning Eddy’s early death. A year later, George proposed, with his grandmother Queen Victoria’s approval, and they became devoted to each other for the rest of their life.

But it is the unique darkness of the time of the reign of George V which will make him attractive to dramatists, as he is the only king to have seen his kingdom twice approach a world at war.

When his father Edward VII died on May 6 1910, George wrote in his diary: “I have lost my best friend and the best of fathers. I never had a



cross word with him in my life. I am heartbroken and overwhelmed with grief but God will help me in my responsibilities and darling May will be my comfort as she has always been. May God give me strength and guidance in the heavy task which has fallen on me.”

The “heavy task” wasn’t the half of it. King George was to watch in horror as relations between the nations deteriorated into the slaughter of the First World War and again, before his death in 1936, he was to foresee it happening once more as the storm clouds gathered for what was to become World War Two.

As a television-producer friend commented: “A king whose reign saw the coming of two world wars? My cat could make write a good screenplay of that.”

Besides world war and the rise of socialism, communism, fascism and Irish republicanism being more than enough to drag him away from his preferred occupations of collecting stamps and shooting things – the expert marksman once bagged more than 1,000 pheasants in six hours, a killing frenzy that even he was later to admit went a little too far – there was scandal too.

Dramatists love scandal and it is not difficult to imagine the scenes of distress that could be created on the screen to replicate the time when a radical propagandist, Edward Mylius, published a lie that George had secretly married in Malta as a young man, and that consequently his marriage to Queen Mary-May was bigamous.

The lie had first surfaced in print in 1893 but George had shrugged it



off as a joke. But when it surfaced again as he took the throne, in an effort to kill off rumours Mylius was arrested, tried and found guilty of criminal libel, and was sentenced to a year in prison.

But it is the turbulent political times of his reign that will provide the greatest lure to screenwriters. First, the heated debate of home rule for Ireland, introduced – and opposed – in 1910. There is much drama to be made from the King’s desperate attempts to broker agreement among the angry sides as he tried earnestly to head off civil war in 1914.

But a greater horror was to confront him that year as Britain and France went to war with a Germany led by Kaiser Wilhelm II, the King’s first cousin.

The nightmare of the slaughter of the battlefields was considerably worsened for the King by his German ancestry. With thousands dying each week on the Front, it didn’t exactly assist national morale that the King’s paternal grandfather was Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha – nor that consequently, the King and his children bore the titles Prince and Princess of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha and Duke and Duchess of Saxony.

Queen Mary, although British like her mother, was the daughter of the Duke of Teck, a descendant of the German Dukes of Wurttemberg. The King had brothers-in-law and cousins who were British subjects but who bore German titles such as Duke and Duchess of Teck, Prince and Princess of Battenberg, and Prince and Princess of Schleswig-Holstein.

Goaded by public opinion crystallised by the comment of HG Wells that Britain had an alien and uninspiring court, George – who famously responded: “I may be uninspiring but I’ll be damned if I’m alien” – set about creating the modern monarchy with a royal proclamation that dumped the House of Saxe-Coburg in favour of the House of Windsor, ordering all of his family to give up their German titles.

There is much drama also to be made from the anxiety at the palace of the Russian Revolution of 1917 and its threat to George’s cousin Tsar Nicholas II – and a plot hatched by MI1, a branch of the secret service, to rescue the Tsar and his family from the revolutionaries who eventually executed them.

And even my friend’s accomplished cat could make a tear-jerking episode out of the events of 1922, when George went to France and Belgium to tour the vast cemeteries that were being built by the Imperial War Graves Commission, an emotionally taxing visit immortalised by Rudyard Kipling in his poem *The King’s Pilgrimage*, in which he wrote:

“And there lay gentlemen from out of all the seas

That ever called him King.

‘Twixt Nieuport sands and the eastward lands where the Four Red Rivers spring,

Five hundred thousand gentlemen of those that served their King.”

The events of his reign after the war would make gripping viewing of the televised life of George V too; the fighting in Ireland before partition in 1922, fighting which so horrified the King that he repeatedly protested to Prime Minister David Lloyd George over government-sanctioned reprisals and killings, and the King’s human stand during the General Strike of 1926, when again he opposed the government, defending the strikers against accusations that they were revolutionaries by quipping: “Try living on their wages before you judge them.”

On top of that you have George’s concern in his later years about the rise of Hitler in Germany and his warnings that he could see a war coming again, and his introduction in 1932 of the royal Christmas speech, an innovation that he initially resisted but one which so made his popularity with the people that by the time of his silver jubilee in 1935, he was to typically comment on the roaring crowds: “I cannot understand it – after all I am a very ordinary sort of fellow.”

A Very Ordinary Sort Of Fellow is a good name for a royal drama series if ever there was one. But perhaps a more winning title would be a nick from his eldest granddaughter, then Princess Elizabeth, now our Queen, and upon whom he apparently doted – creating her nickname Lilibet, which we shall hear said a lot in *The Crown*.

In return, she affectionately dubbed him Grandpa England. And if a good television dramatist cannot make a must-watch series out of that catchy title, then my pal’s cat is available now.

Capital nights

gigguide

Compiled by Jack Dixon



Teleman

O2 Forum, Kentish Town
Tuesday November 1

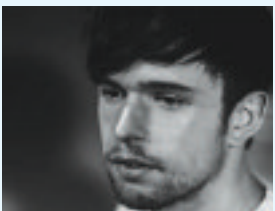
London indie-poppers who have toured with the likes of Suede, Franz Ferdinand and Belle & Sebastian in recent years. Finally making waves with high-energy tunes channelling 80s synth pop and rasping post-punk guitars. Fans may remember band members Thomas Sanders and Pete Cattermoul from doomed early 2000s group Pete & the Pirates.



The Lumineers

Eventim Apollo, Hammersmith
Friday November 4

Stadium rockers who slingshot themselves to stardom with mega-hit *Ho Hey* in 2012, earning them a double Grammy award nomination. Now firm festival favourites, the foot-stomping Americana group are on tour with their follow-up album *Cleopatra*, released in April. Often compared to fellow folksters Mumford & Sons and Noah & the Whale.



James Blake

O2 Academy, Brixton
Saturday November 5

Critically adored singer and producer whose low-key beats and breathy vocals have earned comparisons with Portishead. Scooped the Mercury Prize for his 2013 album *Overgrown* and has gone from strength to strength ever since, with Grammy and Brit award nominations to boot. The 28-year-old Londoner is back in his hometown for a sell-out show at Brixton's O2 Academy.

FROM the opening notes, which are sung in Ukrainian, it's clear there is something unexpected about Katie

Melua's new album *In Winter*.

The sound is created by 25 female voices pooled from the Gori Women's Choir in Georgia, Katie's country of birth.

Still best remembered for her early 2000s hits *The Closest Thing To Crazy* and *Nine Million Bicycles*, the maturing singer-songwriter is growing steadily more ambitious with her advancing years.

Discovering a recording by the choir was the inspiration for her latest work, which has been billed as an understated wintry wonder and an antidote to the gaudy festive sing-alongs that tend to dominate the charts at this time of year.

"The idea came from a conversation I was having with a friend of mine a few winters ago," she reveals. We were both lamenting the fact that there didn't seem to be a go-to album out there for us to listen to during the winter months – an album that would fill the house with wonderful, warm, poignant sounds rather than the usual jingle-bells pop songs.

"So that's how the album was born – out of necessity."

With a clear idea about how the record should sound, Katie flew to Georgia with 12 boxes of equipment and built a DIY studio in the small town of Gori.

The journey took the 32-year-old back to her homeland, which has been a constant source of inspiration since her family moved to Northern Ireland and later London when she was a girl.

There were many unknowns.

Katie was producing her own material for the first time, she had built the studio from scratch – and the choir had never even used headphones before.

But despite all the obstacles in her path, the album, Katie's seventh, slowly began to take shape.

In Georgia, she recorded the first four tracks, including a 100-year-old Ukrainian carol sung in the traditional Slavic tongue.

An interpretation of *Nunc Dimitis* from Rachmaninoff's *All Night Vigil* also makes an appearance on the album.

"I had to have it on the album," Katie says.

"It took me close to the mythical notion I have from my youth of the Russian forest, frozen and covered in snow, and of my Grandad's tales

Previewing
Katie Melua at
Theatre Royal
by Jack Dixon



Katie Melua is growing steadily more ambitious with her advancing years

of escaping from a Siberian labour camp."

Katie then returned to London to complete the record, which is infused with her nomadic culture.

But she says the winter months remained the overriding theme: "I feel the stillness of the winter season really causes us to reflect on our lives and relationships, wondering if our loved ones share the same feelings when it comes to growth and the fear of change."

Despite Katie's globetrotting endeavours to create the album, it was a London bookshop in which

she found inspiration for the cover artwork.

Thai illustrator Niroot Puttapi-pat's hand-drawn design became the icing on Melua's cake.

Mesmerised by the Gori choir's tone and sonic richness, Katie has invited the singers to join her on a tour of Europe to celebrate the album's release.

She will make her return to London's Theatre Royal just as the Christmas tills start ringing.

*Katie Melua will perform at the Theatre Royal on November 27. The new album *In Winter* is out now.*

Thrill-a-minute trip back in time for Genesis fans

GIANT sunflowers. Bat wings. Double-necked guitars. Gladiators. It can only mean one thing – the return of prog pioneers Genesis. But not quite as we know them.

The sounds of the 70s legends' biggest hits have been ringing out in London this week, performed by premier tribute act The Musical Box.

Having entertained close to 1,000 audiences in the guise of their heroes, the Canadian group have built a fan base among the biggest in the world for a covers band.

Costumes, props and lighting from the original 1974 Genesis tour *Selling England By The Pound* were used to bring the band's eccentric performances back to life at the Hammersmith Apollo on Monday.

The Halloween spectacular took fans on a thrill-a-minute ride back in time, reliving the legendary stage shows that billed Genesis the most inventive and theatrical performers in rock. The group's set featured guest appearances from ex-band members Steve Hackett



and Phil Collins, who claimed: "The Musical Box play it better than we did."

Topping off a nine-date UK tour – their first for seven years – the Montreal-based band have even been given the seal of approval from hard-to-please Genesis architect Peter Gabriel.

The Musical Box formed in 1993 with the express intention of commemorating the tour's 20th anniversary. Two decades later and they have recreated the feat.

"They're not a tribute band," says Collins. "They have taken a period and are faithfully reproducing it in the same way that someone would do a theatrical production."

Christmas special marks Dame Shirley's milestones

AT least it will make a welcome change from the embarrassing nonsense of *Mrs Brown's Boys*, as BBC One prepares for us to spend Christmas this year with Dame Shirley Bassey.

In January, Dame Shirley reaches her milestone 80th birthday. In celebration of her phenomenal career, BBC One is aiming for viewers to join her for a Christmas Day night of entertainment from the singing icon. The event will be hosted by one of her biggest fans, comedian David Walliams.

The one-off special will feature a lavish mix of entertainment, comedy, surprises and live music, with Dame Shirley performing some of her biggest and best-loved classics backed by a live studio orchestra.

Dame Shirley said: "This will mark two very special milestones for me – an occasion not to miss. We just need to work out how to fit a 60-year career into 60 minutes."

David said: "As a lifelong fan of Dame Shirley I am thrilled to be making a television special with her. It really is a dream come true. Whenever Dame Shirley and I are together we laugh a great deal, so I



am hoping this will be a hugely entertaining show."

Kate Phillips, controller, entertainment commissioning, said: "Dame Shirley's first BBC television special aired in 1970 and we're thrilled to welcome her again for a truly fabulous night."

David will interview Dame Shirley in a candid walk through her career, from little-known stories to highlights from her music career to date. He will talk to her about how the little girl from Tiger Bay grew up to become one of the most celebrated and iconic voices of the past 60 years. Thanks to hard graft and talent, she went from a teenager singing in working men's clubs to signing her first artist contract at 16 and breaking America before The Beatles and performing for royalty.

Capital nights

STARRING as the charmless sociopath Vince in the little-known black comedy *15 Storeys High*, Sean Lock carved out the dour comic persona that would characterise his future career.

Alongside his bumbling housemate Errol, swimming-pool instructor Vince sneered at his council-flat neighbours and concocted fiendish plots to avoid the day-to-day duties of adult life.

But while Vince wallowed in his decrepitude, Sean picked up the world-weary, grumbling anti-socialite tag and ran with it, adopting the frustrated maverick identity for a string of well-received stand-up shows.

Now 53, the Surrey-born comic can claim to have succeeded where countless others have failed. In translating his unique brand of dark, surrealist humour for a popular audience, Sean has brought a fringe style crashing into the mainstream.

While he makes it all look so effortless, Sean says writing gags is anything but a joke.

"I spend a lot of time achieving nothing – days go by sometimes," he said in a recent interview ahead of his latest tour *Keep It Light*.

"I have to be at my office in case something comes along. It's like fishing. If you don't sit at the riverbank with a fishing rod,

a line, a hook and a worm on it, you're never going to catch any fish. If I do this for a whole day then something will slot into place. People perhaps assume that you just walk into a room and make this stuff up but jokes are very hard to come by."

Best known today as the team captain on Channel 4's *8 Out Of 10 Cats*, Sean is now well established among the panel-show elite.

A veteran of stand-up stomping grounds *QI*, *Have I Got News For You* and *They Think It's All Over*, he has also hosted Dave's comedy jaunt *Argumental* as well his own *Room 101*-style television review show *TV Heaven Telly Hell*.

It's on stage, however, that Sean is at his most fluent. Cracking wise about politics, relationships and popular culture, he puts a bitter slant on the mainstream observational style.

His latest stand-up tour, which comes to the Hammersmith Apollo in May, features snippets on the perils of avoiding a mid-life crisis, shopping for glasses and calling out James Bond: "I find the very notion of him ridiculous – the thought that one man can save the world is so childish."

Sean's life has not always been so laugh-a-minute, though. In fact, had it not been for an eagle-eyed woman called Tina with whom he shared a one-night stand, he might never have made it this far.



Sean Lock says writing gags is hard work

"She said there was something weird on my back," he recalls. "I asked her what it looked like and she said it was a patch of skin which was black, misshapen, with a crusty texture and about the size of a 10p piece. I had no idea how long it had been there."

Doctors at Guy's Hospital in South Lon-

don diagnosed the mark as a malignant melanoma.

If he hadn't acted when he did, the cancer would likely have spread to his lymphatic system and reached an incurable stage.

Sean would later recall his younger days working shirtless on a building site as the source of his health problems.

"Some of the guys had very pale Irish skin and were so red they must have been in agony," he told the *Daily Mail*.

"But they would never admit it, probably because they didn't want to be thought of as soft. You could hardly ask a big Irish foreman 'Please could you rub some Ambre Solaire on my back?'"

It's now more than two decades since Sean became the first comedian ever to perform at Wembley Arena – he was a support act for comedy poster boys Robert Newman and David Baddiel at the time – but his place in the pantheon of great stand-ups is already assured.

That gig in 1993 at the then-12,000-capacity venue was seen as a watershed moment for the medium.

Sean Lock has been as good an ambassador as any for carrying the comedy flag in the 23 years since.

Sean Lock will perform *Keep It Light* at the Eventim Apollo in Hammersmith on May 5 and 6 2017.

Every song's a Maserati on new album to drive to

IN his day job in Montreal, Dan Moisan is one of the most creative minds in the advertising industry of Canada.

At night, he becomes the best songwriter to have come out of that land since Neil Young.

Not a lot of people have yet heard of his band Mosquito-B, despite them touring the UK six times.

But those who have are die-hard enthusiasts for the pumping, memorably-melodic, dance-inciting rock pop that sounds like it has the tunes of Macca, the killer riffs of Keef and many would-be hits that Queen would have liked to have written.

Nowhere is this hidden talent better revealed than on *Use Less U*, the new record from the big-sound band which is only Dan (lead vocal and bass), demon guitarist Stephanie Gagnon and booming drummer Jean-Michel Perrier.

And you can now buy the album for just a quid. A 14-track record for only £1 – is it a dud? Very much not – and according to Moisan, "per album sold, it represents more than the amount made by an artist who is signed with a label. Are artists underpaid in our digital era?"



Yes. But Mosquito-B is rethinking the business model with a real game-changer – you buy directly from the sweatshop. No middlemen, no pushers, no streamers, no distributors. Just you and the artist, period."

With thumping songs that ear-worm you after just one listen, led by vocals which sound like Cat Stevens would have done if he had bought a Stratocaster, Mosquito-B are set to become the band of choice for connoisseurs of class.

Songs like *Neon Riders*, *I Don't Know* and *Abel & Cain* would be much-prized, take-the-roof-off numbers in the sets of many stars, if they had this exceptional talent to make them.

Mixed at London's Air Studios, *Use Less U* is a five-star triumph of spirit-raising rock. Highly recommended to be played loud in the car. Buy it – at mosquito-b.com – in preparation for their London tour dates next year. Every song is a Maserati.

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| Tuesday: | 10:00am - 6:00pm |
| Wednesday: | 10:00am - 6:00pm |
| Thursday: | CLOSED |
| Friday: | 10:00am - 6:00pm |
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Pupil Calder Douglas with his Rumpelstiltskin mask

Pupils put life into Grimm's fairy tales

PUPILS at Portland Place School showed guests the extent of their creativity during a series of performances which exhibited their hard work over the first half of the term.

Staff and parents the school enjoyed an evening of "The Grimm's Fairy Tales" to celebrate half term. The event was a culmination of the pupils' cross-curricular project throughout design and technology, art, music and drama.

Three shows were performed continually throughout the evening in different rooms so guests could step in and out of fairy tales.

The stories of Little Red Riding Hood, Rumpelstiltskin and Hansel and Gretel were played out using props,

atmospheric music and acting skills which the pupils all designed and worked on themselves. They created the artefacts in design and technology and decorated them in art. The savvy pupils also composed the spooky music whilst learning the lines for each play.

The year 7 choir also stepped in throughout the night to sing the Evening Prayer from Hansel and Gretel during the interludes.

Pupil Calder Douglas, 11, played the deceptive Rumpelstiltskin.

He said: "It was a lot of fun working on The Grimms Fairy Tales throughout the term and it was great that our parents could come and watch us showcase what we have been doing at school."

Music teacher and Head of Year 7, Christina Boyle organised the show.

She said: "We are really pleased with how it went. The pupils have been working towards this throughout the half term so it was brilliant to finally see all their hard work come together."

"It was great that they could share what they have been doing with their parents and it was a fantastic evening."

Portland Place School is an independent co-educational school for children aged 8-18, located directly in the heart of the City of Westminster.

For more information on the school visit: www.portland-place.co.uk or call 020 7307 8700.

High calibre talent on show at college concert

AN outstanding collection of performing arts were showcased during DLD College London's annual talent show last week.

An eclectic mix of singers, musicians and dancers delighted the audience with their incredibly abilities in the atrium of the Westminster Bridge-based college.

Following 14 beautiful performances by students and teachers, a poll was created so the guests could select their overall winner.

The final decision was tight due to the high calibre of performances but it was GCSE student Jonathan Heinrich, 16, who took the title "Best Overall Performance" with his rendition of Hall of Fame, the Script on the Piano.

Last year's winner, singer Alessandra Lato, 18, also won an award for best singer after her solo performance of "If I Ain't Got You" received a roaring applause from the audience.

Peter Hopkins, Head of Creative Arts and Director of Music organised the popular event.

He commented: "The amount of talent witnessed at this latest show was exceptional. It really was a close call but Jonathan is a very skilled and brilliant pianist who really pleased the crowd with his performance."

"It was another wonderful event held here at DLD and we love to give our students creative outlets such as this event to boost their



Jonathan Heinrich voted best overall performance at the DLD College talent show

confidence and showcase the superb talent we have here."

Founded in 1931, DLD College London is one of the oldest and most prestigious colleges in the UK, and since its foundation has built a strong reputation amongst students, parents, schools and universities.

In September 2015, DLD College London relocated to new, purpose-built premises at 199 Westminster Bridge Road, overlooking Westminster and the

River Thames.

The college offers students the chance to study a wide range and flexible combination of A-Levels, GCSEs, International Foundation courses and BTEC courses.

As part of the Alpha Plus Group, DLD College aims to maintain a 'gold standard' of educational quality. Classes are small, enabling students and teachers to focus on the most effective ways of learning.

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Wine & dine



The London Steakhouse, Chelsea, is the perfect place for a special meal with friends and is fabulous for a date night

Exquisite dining

FOR an exquisite dining experience within opulent and relaxing surroundings, the London Steakhouse Company in Chelsea will provide the perfect platform for an elegant evening out, *writes Nicky Sweetland*.

Opened in 2008, the award-winning London Steakhouse Co City restaurant was the first and original Steakhouse to bear superstar celebrity chef Marco Pierre White's name and was followed a year later by London Steakhouse Co Chelsea.

I went along with a friend on a rainy Wednesday and my spirits

were immediately lifted by the excellent service and stunning cuisine.

The restaurant was surprisingly busy for an early evening midweek in autumn but we were treated with the utmost care and given expert advice on the extensive menu.

Within the stylish dining rooms, we first sampled a bite-sized mushroom and spinach risotto with a cherry tomato, topped with Parmesan, which was creamy, light and tangy.

A pair of starters then enthralled us, with my companion munching on a delightfully rich crab salad served with red apple, mint and

lime and, in an attempt to consume as much meat as is humanly possible, I guzzled the beef short ribs, with a barbecue glaze, served with a velvety coleslaw.

For the main, we were advised to try the special porterhouse steak; a thick and yet beautifully succulent serving to share, including fillet and sirloin off the bone and served with a selection of sauces.

We had some divine potato croquets (cooked in truffle oil), some crispy fries, a little green salad and some seasonal vegetables to fulfil our ravenous desire.

In addition we had a crisp, fresh glass of 2015 Pinot Grigio delle

Venezie IGT, Veritiere, and felt like we had been thoroughly spoiled.

We also sampled some of the demure and delectable deserts, with my companion enjoying the traditional British sticky toffee pudding and my tastebuds tingled by a wonderfully prepared creme brulee.

The London Steakhouse, Chelsea, is the perfect place for a special meal with friends – or if you want to impress that certain someone, it is fabulous for a date night, offering an astonishingly good dining experience, with fabulous cuisine and excellent service.

For more information, visit londonsteakhousecompany.com.

A traditional feel, stunning!

I WAS tipped off before my first visit to Royal China, Fulham, that the traditional and fully authentic Cantonese restaurant is known to serve the best dim sum in London – and I wasn't disappointed, *writes Nicky Sweetland*.

Prepared on a daily basis by the team of dedicated dim sum chefs using the best available ingredients, the dim sum are freshly steamed or fried to order.

So we thought, before we stuffed our faces on the other delights available from the extensive menu, we had better sample the famous dumplings.

My companion tried the mixed dim sum (five pieces with three prawn and two pork, £15) and I stuck to just the pork version (£16). The succulent envelopes were beautifully prepared and melt in the mouth, and served with dipping sauces to make a fulsome starter.

We then decided to embark on something of an oriental feast and endeavoured to gain a real feel for the menu by ordering a variety of dishes to share, under the expert advice of the attentive and knowledgeable waiting staff.

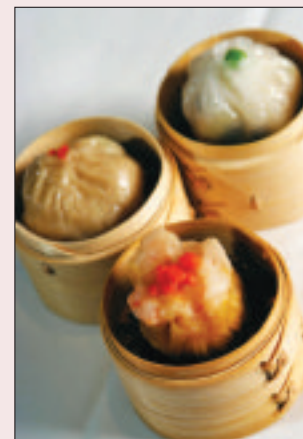
First in line was a classic crispy duck (£25.80) served with pancakes and hoisin sauce, which was meaty and hugely gratifying.

We then sampled some crispy noodles with beef (£9.80), which were bitingly spicy and complemented with some colourful stirfry mix vegetables.

For a bit more of a British take on the menu we tucked into chicken fillet in curry sauce (£10.80) – and although we tried our best, we were grateful to be offered some takeaway containers on our departure so we could continue feeding when we felt a little less replete.

A fantastic restaurant, with a traditional feel and simply stunning dim sum, Royal China is perfect for an evening of wholesome cuisine within relaxing surroundings.

For more information, visit theroyalchina.co.uk.



Talk of the town

AGEING spinster Dr Evadne Hinge makes her operatic comeback this month in comic opera *The Dowager's Oyster* at The So & So Arts Club. Best known for performing with her cabaret partner Dame Hilda Brackett (now deceased), Dr Hinge is dusting off the old tiara and giving it one last whirl in Louis Mander's rip-roaring *Carry On*-style kiss-me-quick whodunit comic opera, which had a first outing at the Arcola Theatre this year.

Cynthia and her aged mother, the dowager, are holidaying on the French island of Oleron.

Cynthia's fiance can't join them – he's on his own journey of discovery with a secret gay lover in Morocco.

But when Cynthia and the dowager bump into old friends, gossip abounds and confusion ensues.

Hinge and Brackett, in their heyday, were the darlings of the London cabaret circuit.

But it was their 1974 Edinburgh Fringe show that took them from the likes of the Royal Vauxhall Tavern into the glittering West End.

This was followed by national tours, radio and television performances as well as their own BBC2 show, *Dear Ladies*.

Composer Louis Mander studied at the Royal College of Music and the University of Birmingham.

His inaugural double bill *The Mariner* and *The Clown Of God* was well reviewed at its premiere in Islington in 2011.

Scenes from his full-length opera *The Life To Come*, to a libretto by actor and writer Stephen Fry based on an EM Forster short story, were performed to considerable acclaim at the Britten Theatre, London, in July 2013.

Louis provided the soundtrack for the film *My Beautiful White Skin*, by award-winning director Stuart Gatt, for 6th International Films in summer 2014.

The Dowager's Oyster premiered at the Grimeborn Festival at the Arcola Theatre this August and will play at The So & So Arts Club from November 22 to November 26.

Dr Evadne Hinge
THE DOWAGER'S OYSTER



Dr Evadne Hinge makes her operatic comeback this month in *The Dowager's Oyster*

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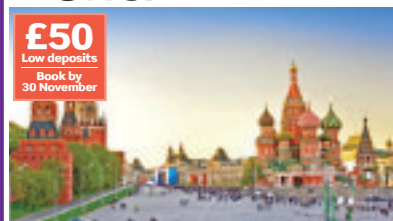


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Wolf Hall star returns to West End in Albee classic

DAMIAN Lewis, pictured, will return to the West End next year in a new production of Edward Albee's *The Goat, or Who Is Sylvia?* which will open at the Theatre Royal Haymarket in April.

Ian Rickson will direct the darkly comic and disturbing view on the collapse of familial relationships.

The play has all of Albee's characteristically witty tones as well as being a deeply tragic portrayal of a couple and their teenage son in crisis when the father embarks on an improbable and impossible love affair from which there is no return.

Widely regarded as Albee's late masterpiece, the play is brought back to the London stage following his recent death.

Lewis was last seen on the London stage in a production of David Mamet's *American Buffalo* – he now returns to play Albee's central character Martin. G

Golden Globe- and Emmy Award-winning Lewis is best known for his roles on screen in *Homeland* and *Wolf Hall* and most recently *Billions*. He has also regularly returned to the stage performing at the National Theatre and the Almeida as well as in the West End.



Ian Rickson is a prolific and multi-award-winning director whose recent work includes *Evening At The Talk House* and *The Red Lion* at the National Theatre, *Jerusalem*, *Mojo*, *Old Times* and *Betrayal* in the West End and *Hamlet* at The Young Vic.

The Goat, or Who Is Sylvia? will begin previews at the Theatre Royal Haymarket on March 24. For more information, visit thegoatplay.com.

● ARTHUR Miller scored his first great Broadway success with *All My Sons* in 1947, a production which sealed his reputation as one of the most

influential playwrights of the 20th century. The Rose Theatre, Kingston, is presenting the work as part of its American season.

The story follows Joe Keller, a thriving businessman who, during the Second World War, knowingly supplied the American air force with defective engines, leading to the death of innocent pilots.

To avoid the blame, he let his business partner take the fall. But

on a Sunday afternoon Joe is confronted by the consequences of his moral actions as a visitor arrives to reveal a secret that will rip his family apart.

Billed a compelling story of love, guilt and the corrupting power of greed, the show won a handful of Tony awards and was last performed in the West End in 2010, starring Zoe Wanamaker and David Suchet.

All My Sons runs at The Rose Theatre until November 19. For more information, visit rosetheatrekington.org.

Talk of the town

ADAM Rothenberg – star of BBC One's *Ripper Street* and New York stage favourite – is making his London theatrical debut, having joined the cast of Sam Shepherd's *Fool For Love* at Found111.

The actor, who plays Captain Homer Jackson on the hit television programme, which is set in East London, will be part of the final show at the pop-up performance venue on Charing Cross Road and is excited by being a part of the West End theatre scene.

Adam said: "I've performed a lot on stage in New York but I really see London as the gold standard. I spent some time in the city when I was filming *Ripper Street* and I really love it."

The darkly humorous *Fool For Love* shows the story of two people who just can't live without each other.

May is hiding out at an old motel in the Mojave Desert when Eddie, an old flame and childhood friend, finds her there and threatens to drag her back into the life from which she had fled. Reality and dream, truth and lies, past and present mingle in an explosive, emotional experience.

Adam said: "My character's called Eddie and he's a rodeo stuntman and at the beginning of the play he's in a hotel room in the Mojave Desert. He's trying to get back with his ex-lover who he wasn't a great guy to and the story sort of starts from there."

Sam wrote *Fool For Love* shortly after breaking up with his wife O-Lan to be with Jessica Lange. In a letter to his friend and virtuoso collaborator Joe Chaikin, he described his play as "the outcome of all this tumultuous feeling I've been going through this past year – it's a very emotional play and in some ways embarrassing for me to witness but somehow necessary at the same time."

The play is the fourth and final production to be staged at Found111, following the hugely successful *Unfaithful*, *The Dazzle* and *Bug*.

Based at the site of the original Central St Martins School of Art at 111 Charing Cross Road, right in the heart of Soho, Found111 is a versatile temporary venue, provided by Soho Estates, that continues the site's vibrant history as a contemporary hub of creativity. The intimate performance space adds a valuable immersive dimension to the audience experience – and with *Fool For Love* set within a small room, provides the perfect backdrop for the delightfully claustrophobic account.

Adam said "The performance area at Found111 is about as big as a motel room, so it's really perfect."

Olivier award-nominated Lydia Wilson (*King Charles III*, *Blasted*, *Star Trek Beyond*) plays May and the cast also includes Joe McGann and Luke Neal.

Fool For Love is running at Found111 until December 17. For more details, visit found111.co.uk.



Adam Rothenberg and Lydia Wilson in *Fool For Love*. Photo Darren Bell

Penguins at Criterion for magical Christmas season

A NEW family musical will have its West End premiere this year when *Mr Popper's Penguins* opens at the Criterion Theatre for a magical Christmas season.

Mr and Mrs Popper and their remarkable family of performing penguin puppets come to London direct from a UK tour and US premiere at New York's renowned New Victory Theatre.

Painter and decorator by day, Mr Popper dreams of Antarctic adventures. He is astounded when one day a packing crate arrives, out of which waddles a penguin.

With original music and lyrics, and a family of performing penguins brought vividly to life through the magic of puppetry, this delightful musical adaptation of Richard and Florence Atwater's popular book – also made into a Hollywood film starring Jim Carrey – is brought to you by the producer of *Hetty Feather* (Olivier Award nominee).

The cast includes Lucy Grattan (Greta/Admiral



Drake, Scott Jones (understudy/ASM), Toby Manley (Captain Cook/Mr Greenbaum), Russell Morton (Mr Popper) and Roxanne Palmer (Mrs Popper).

The musical is directed by Emma Earle and designed by Zoe Squire with puppetry design by Nick Barnes, co-founder of London's Blind Summit.

Mr Popper's Penguins features lyrics by Richy Hughes (Stiles & Drewe Prize winner, 2015) and music by Luke Bateman.

Mr Popper's Penguins will run at the Criterion Theatre

from December 15 to December 31. For more information, visit pinsandneedlesproductions.co.uk.

● THIS Christmas, The Fitzrovia Radio Hour take over The Vaults Theatre in Waterloo for a four-week run with their unique take on Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*.

The festive classic is reimaged as a 1940s-style radio drama, which broadcasts live with a studio audience across the British Empire.

Fighting off visitations from more ghosts than they bargained for, can the multi-tasking cast keep the sounds and varied inhabitants of Victorian London alive for the duration of the broadcast?

A Christmas Carol will play at The Vaults Theatre from December 6 to December 31. For more information, see christmascarollondon.com.

Talk of the town

Jolly production fails to enthrall



Ragtime
Charing Cross
Theatre

I DON'T normally read other people's reviews before I see a show – but as I couldn't make it to the official Press night and I can't seem to extricate myself from social media for more than 24 hours, I couldn't help but notice the flurry of five-star reviews attributed to *Ragtime* at Charing Cross Theatre. I have to say, therefore, that I was slightly bemused and more than a bit disappointed when I did get to visit, writes Nicky Sweetland.

Thom Southerland directs the musical, which is based on EL Doctorow's 1975 novel and is set at the turn of the 20th century.

The tale of perpetual prejudice highlights the plight of a Jewish immigrant whose dreams of a new life in America fall short, a man of colour determined to get justice after his fiancée's murder and a well-to-do white woman who exercises an independent streak after her husband embarks on an overseas voyage, leaving her in charge of the family's affairs.

With Stephen Flaherty's rhythmic score played entirely by the on-

stage performers, audiences are transported back to a period in American history when corruption is rife and immigrants are seen as a threat to social stability.

The plot has obvious relevance to issues we are facing in society today – yet this production feels staid and old-fashioned.

The stage is at times too busy – and with so much to look at, the plot is difficult to follow.

That's not to say there aren't some magical performances, with Jennifer Saayeng's *Your Daddy's Son* a real highlight of Act 1 and the rousing chorus number *'Til We Reach That Day* giving a much-needed crescendo to an otherwise fairly mundane collection of songs.

This is a well-performed and jolly evening of music.

But the disjointed story and apparent need to fill the stage with as many musical instruments as possible make concentration difficult and the production lacks the light and shade needed to enthrall.

Ragtime is playing at Charing Cross Theatre until December 10. For more information, visit charingcross-theatre.co.uk/theatre/ragtime.



Trevor Dion Nicholas leads the finale of Disney Broadway Hits at the Royal Albert Hall

Disney Broadway Hits
Royal Albert Hall

For many fans of musicals, the first foray into a world where breaking into song is the norm is through Disney films. Over the years, some of the most acclaimed movies have been made into stage musicals, with smash hits like *The Lion King* and *Aladdin* watched by millions on Broadway, the West End and across the globe. And on October 23 a cast of stars was gathered to celebrate some of the very best Disney theatrical productions in a glittering concert performance at the Royal Albert Hall, writes Nicky Sweetland.

After a gorgeous medley of songs from *Beauty And The Beast* to open proceedings, the audience of more than 5,000 people was

introduced to the top cast of performers, which included MC John Barrowman.

Lesser-known songs from shows like *Newsies* and *Aida* were showcased alongside the well-known classics from *Mary Poppins* and *The Little Mermaid* and all were performed with absolute aplomb by the renowned group of Disney musical alumni.

Accompanied by the BBC Concert Orchestra and a large choir made up of students from the Royal Academy of Music and Arts, the concert concentrated on the music rather than trying to replicate the spectacle we have all come to associate with Disney's theatrical productions.

The performances from the stellar cast – Scarlett Strallen (*Mary Poppins*, West End), Ashley Brown (*Mary Poppins*, Broadway), Alton Fitzgerald White (*The Lion King*, Broadway), Merle Danridge (*Tarzan*, Broadway), Josh Strickland (*Tarzan*, Broadway)

and the host, British stage and television favourite John Barrowman – more than made up for the lack of effects.

Highlights included Ashley Brown singing what is widely agreed to have been Walt Disney's favourite number, *Feed The Birds* from *Mary Poppins*, and a very special moment, when eight-time Academy Award-winning composer Alan Menken took his place at the piano for a rendition of *Proud Of Your Boy* from *Aladdin*.

It was the London cast of *Aladdin* that really raised the rafters, however, with an amazing finale led by the effervescent Trevor Dion Nicholas.

For London fans, the superb concert was a chance to hear songs from shows that have yet to make it across to this side of the Pond.

And with the glorious Royal Albert Hall as a backdrop, the show was an evening of magical delight.

Cult 1990s work feels spookily prophetic

Shopping And F***ing
Lyric Hammersmith

IN a time when, for many of us, the internet has almost become a part of our very being and the title of this play includes two of the main reasons for us scrolling on our handheld devices, Mark Ravenhill's cult 1990s work *Shopping And F***ing* at the Lyric, Hammersmith, feels spookily prophetic, writes Nicky Sweetland.

For the play's 20th anniversary, director Sean Holmes has taken the essence of the original production, which caused a stir when it was first performed at the Royal Court in 1996, while cleverly highlighting the relevance to our modern-day world.

The dystopia he creates is a world in which everything has a price tag and ordering up your next sexual conquest is just as easy as buying an item from eBay.

The play follows three disconnected young adults who feel as if their life has been reduced to a series of transactions as they drift through a type of moral vacuum.

With pot noodles and DayGlo T-shirts used as part of the backdrop to create the feeling of 1990s malaise, Holmes has infused nods to the growing reality-television culture with tinny pop and a camera displaying every monologue on the big screen.

The resulting tongue-in-cheek comment on growing con-

sumerism in society is at times truly horrifying, with gruelling sexual content, a lot of gory fluid-throwing and grotesque games adding to the thought-provoking nature of the piece.

After some singing, which is almost as horrific as some of the recent attempts by *The X Factor* glitterati, we are introduced to a dead ringer for Honey G, played with gusto by Ashley McGuire, whose guru without morals preaches that civilisation is money and whose demonic ramblings give a threatening subtext.

Alex Arnold and Sophie Wu fend off impending ruin by selling their body, while Sam Spruell attempts to dispel his growing need for personal affir-

mation, only to fall foul of a despicable desire when a new plaything is delivered (David Moorst) in a cardboard box.

Performances are of a very high standard and Holmes' direction, within the modified auditorium, includes a fair bit of uncomfortable audience inclusion to make the performance of a semi-immersive nature.

For a youth living in post-Brexit financial uncertainty and the drifting young unemployed desperate for a purpose, *Shopping And F***ing* is darkly subversive and infinitely germane to our current social climate.

*Shopping And F***ing* is playing at the Lyric Hammersmith until Saturday.

For more information, see lyric.co.uk.



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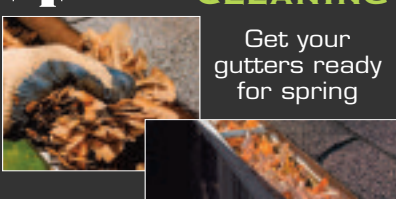
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Public Notices

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

**THE HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM (WAITING AND LOADING
 RESTRICTION) (CONSOLIDATION) AMENDMENT (No. 63)
 ORDER 2016**

**THE HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM (PARKING PLACES, ZONE
 "B/C/CC") (AMENDMENT No. 11) ORDER 2016**

**THE HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM (PARKING PLACES, ZONE "E")
 (AMENDMENT No. 7)
 ORDER 2016**

**THE HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM (PARKING PLACES, ZONE "A")
 (AMENDMENT No. 36)
 ORDER 2016**

1. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham made the above-mentioned Orders under the powers granted by sections 6, 45, 46, 49 and 124 of, and Part IV of Schedule 9 to, the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended.
2. The general effect of the Hammersmith and Fulham (Waiting and Loading Restriction) (Consolidation) (Amendment No. 63) Order 2016 will be to further amend the Hammersmith and Fulham (Waiting and Loading Restriction) (Consolidation) Order 2009 so that waiting and/or loading restrictions would be amended in certain lengths of Controlled Parking Zones B, C, CC and E to reflect the change in parking controls as amended by the Parking Place orders described in this notice.
3. The general effect of the above proposed Parking Places Zones A Order will be to further amend the Hammersmith and Fulham (Parking places, Zone A) Order 2008 in so far that Lily Close and More Close are included in Controlled Parking Zone A for the purpose of applying for a resident permit.
4. The general effect of the above proposed Parking Places Zones B/C/CC Order will be to introduce:
 - a) a new Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) "BB" which will operate as CPZ "B" currently does from Monday to Friday 9am to 6pm;
 - b) Controls in Zone "B" will extend to Monday to Sunday 9am to 7pm with a maximum stay period for 'Pay and Display' parking of up to 2 hours;
 - c) CPZ "B/C/CC" resident and business permits will be valid in CPZ "BB";
 - d) CPZ "BB" permit holders will be permitted to park in CPZ "B", "C" and "CC";
 - e) Any visitors wishing to park in CPZ "BB" will only be permitted to do so by displaying an activated and valid CPZ "BB" SVP or a valid 'Pay and display' ticket;
 - f) CPZ "B" and "BB" residents can apply for a maximum of 1 SVPs with no charge applied on Sundays.
5. The general effect of the above proposed Parking Places Zones E Order will be to further amend the the Hammersmith and Fulham (Parking places, Zone E) Order 2008 in so far that:
 - a) that Lily Close and More Close are removed from the Hammersmith and Fulham (Parking places, Zone E) Order 2008 for the purpose of applying for a resident permit.
6. A copy of the proposed Orders, the Councils statement of reasons for proposing to make the Orders and documents giving more detailed particulars of the proposed Orders, can be inspected during normal office hours on Mondays to Fridays inclusive until the end of a period of 6 weeks beginning with the date on which the Orders are made, or as the case may be, the Council decides not to make the Orders.
7. Any person wishing to object to the proposed Orders or make other representations should send a statement in writing to the following address:
 Transport and Technical Services Group, Highways and Engineering Division, Environment Department,
 Town Hall Extension, King Street, Hammersmith, W6 9JU
 until the expiration of 21 days from the date on which the notice is published.

Dated this 27th day of October 2016

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
 Chief Transport Planner
 Transport and Highways

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**LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
THE HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM (PARKING PLACES, ZONE “E”)
THE HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM
(PARKING PLACES, ZONE “EE”) ORDER 201*
THE HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM
(WAITING AND LOADING RESTRICTIONS) (AMENDMENT NO.)*
ORDER 201***

1. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham propose to make the above-mentioned Orders under the powers granted by sections 6, 45, 46, 49 and 124 of, and Part IV of Schedule 9 to, the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.
2. The general effect of the above-mentioned Orders would be to split the existing Controlled Parking Zone "E" into two separate areas as follows -
 - (a) the area closer to Olympia (**to remain zone "E"**) would have - (i) new extended hours of control, namely 9am to 8pm on Mondays to Sundays inclusive (all week) and; (ii) a 2 hour maximum stay period in the "pay & display" parking places;
 - (b) the western area - see list of streets in the Schedule to this Notice (**to be zone "EE"**) would, although smaller, basically remain the same, with the hours of control being 9am to 8pm on Mondays to Saturdays and no maximum stay period in the "pay & display" parking places.

Notes: (i) whether you live in zone "E" or zone "EE" your permit would be valid for both zones; and (ii) visitors' permits would be available for use in both zones.
3. A copy of the proposed Orders, the Councils statement of reasons for proposing to make the Orders and documents giving more detailed particulars of them, can be inspected during normal office hours on Mondays to Fridays inclusive, until the end of a period of 6 weeks beginning with the date on which the Orders are made, or as the case may be, the Council decides not to make the Orders, in the offices of the Transport and Highway Department at the address stated in paragraph 4 below
4. Any person wishing to object to the proposed Orders or make other representations should send a statement in writing to that effect and, in the case of an objection, stating the grounds thereof, to the following address:
Transport and Highways, Environmental Service, Town Hall Extension, King Street, Hammersmith, W6 9JU until the expiration of 21 days from the date on which this Notice is published.

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

Zone EE consists of the whole lengths of -
Auriol Road, Edith Road, Gliddon Road, Gunterstone Road, Glazbury Road, Gwendwr Road and
Trevanion Road

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM
SECTION 247 OF THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990
THE HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM (HAMMERSMITH ROAD)
(STOPPING UP) ORDER 2016

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham being satisfied that it is necessary to enable development to be carried out in accordance with Part III of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 hereby gives notice that they made an Order under section 247 of that Act.
2. The Order will authorise the stopping up of a section of footway on the north side of Hammersmith Road, semi-circular in shape and bounded on its straight, northernmost side by the southernmost wall of No. 174 Hammersmith Road and having a diameter of approximately 2.30 metres, the centre point of that length being approximately 22.50 metres east of the eastern kerb-line of Rowan Road. The area to be stopped up is shown on the plan attached to the proposed Order (Drawing number: 82080/14).
3. The Order is made, the stopping-up of footway will be solely authorised to enable the development described in the Schedule to this notice to be carried out in accordance with planning permission granted to Kier Property on 21st December 2012 under planning number 2011/03262/FUL and varied on 18th November 2014 under planning number 2014/05478/VAR.
4. Copies of the Order which will come into operation on 01 November 2016 and of documents giving more detailed particulars of the Order can be inspected during normal office hours on Mondays to Fridays inclusive, at:
TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, TOWN HALL EXTENSION, KING STREET, HAMMERSMITH, W6 9JU.

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

The development

174 Hammersmith Road London W6 7JP: The erection of a part seven storey, part four storey building (plus basement) providing 6,450 sqm of office (B1) floorspace, with 9 off street parking spaces at basement level.

newspaper

**ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
THE A4 GLA ROAD (BROMPTON ROAD, ROYAL BOROUGH
OF KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA) (TEMPORARY
PROHIBITION OF STOPPING) ORDER 2016**

1. Transport for London hereby gives notice that it has made the above named Traffic Order under section 14(1), (5), (7) and 15(2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and is satisfied that these works will last in excess of 18 months for the purpose specified in paragraph 2. The effect of the Order is summarised in paragraph 3.
 2. The purpose of the Order is to enable redevelopment works to take place at Nos.27 to 83 A4 Brompton Road.
 3. The effect of the Order will be to prohibit any vehicle:
 - (1) from stopping in the loading bay outside Nos. 33-37 A4 Brompton Road;
 - (2) except authorised vehicles from stopping on the south-east side of A4 Brompton Road outside Nos.5-19 to load or unload materials.
- For the purposes of the Order authorised vehicles are those vehicles being used in connection with the redevelopment of Nos.27-83 Brompton Road.
- The Order will be effective at certain times from 12:01 AM on the 2nd November 2016 until the works have been completed. The prohibition will apply only during such times and to such extent as shall from time to time be indicated by traffic signs.
4. The prohibitions will not apply in respect of:
 - (1) any vehicle being used for the purposes of those works or for fire brigade, ambulance or police purposes;
 - (2) anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform or a person authorised by Transport for London.
 5. The Order will be revoked upon completion of these works.

Dated this 1st day of November 2016
Mufu Durowoju
Network Impact Management Team Manager,
Road Space Management - Operations,
Transport for London, Palestra, 197 Blackfriars Road,
London, SE1 8NJ

MAYOR OF LONDON

TRANSPORT
FOR LONDON

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM
SECTION 247 OF THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990
THE HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM (WOOD LANE)
(STOPPING UP) ORDER 2016

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham being satisfied that it is necessary to enable development to be carried out in accordance with Part III of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 hereby gives notice that they made an Order under section 247 of that Act.
 2. The Order will authorise the stopping up of two sections of footway situated on the east side of the footway and to the east of the carriageway of Wood Lane:
 - (a) one extending north of the northern kerb-line of the Access Road to Nos. 54 and 56 Wood Lane, extending northward for approximately 5 metres and with a width of approximately 0.6 metres; and
 - (b) one extending south of the southern kerb-line of the Access Road to Nos. 54 and 56 Wood Lane, extending southward for approximately 45 metres and with a width of approximately 1.8 metres.
- The areas to be stopped up are shown on the plan attached to the proposed Order (Drawing number: 82080/13).
3. The Order is made, the stopping-up of footway will be solely authorised to enable the development described in the Schedule to this notice to be carried out in accordance with planning permission granted to St James Group Limited on 16th December 2015 under planning number 2014/04726/OUT.
 4. Copies of the Order which will come into operation on 01 November 2016 and of documents giving more detailed particulars of the Order can be inspected during normal office hours on Mondays to Fridays inclusive, at:
TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, TOWN HALL
EXTENSION, KING STREET, HAMMERSMITH, W6 9JU.

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

The development:

Land North of Westfield Shopping Centre, Wood Lane London

Demolition of all existing buildings and structures and the redevelopment of the site for residential and mixed uses comprising the erection of new buildings (ranging from 11 to 30 storeys, use classes A1-A5, B1, D1 & D2), the provision of new publicly accessible open space, new pedestrian and vehicle routes, accesses and amenity areas, basement level car park with integral servicing area and other associated works.

Local Planning Applications London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham



PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

I give notice that applications have been made to the Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham as follows:

FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH MAY AFFECT THE CHARACTER OR APPEARANCE OF A CONSERVATION AREA
Fiat Basement 54 Milson Road London W14 0LB

2016/04483/FUL
Excavation of the front garden in connection with the enlargement of the existing basement and front lightwells; erection of a new external staircase from basement to ground floor level and extension of existing metal railings to the front elevation; installation of a new pedestrian entrance gate fronting Ceylon Road elevation.

147 Claxton Grove London W6 8HB 2016/04337/FUL
Replacement of all existing timber windows and doors to all elevations of the property to uPVC windows and doors.

96 Minford Gardens London W14 0AP 2016/04232/FUL

Erection of a rear roof extension, involving an increase in the ridge height; installation of two rooflights in the front roofspace; erection of a rear extension at first floor level, on top of the existing back addition in connection with the conversion of the existing 2 bedroom flat into 1 x 1 bedroom flat and 1 x 2 bedroom flat.

103 Claxton Grove London W6 8HB 2016/04338/FUL
Replacement of all existing timber windows and doors to all elevations of the property to uPVC windows and doors.

90 Cardross Street London W6 0DR 2016/04496/FUL
Erection of a part one, part two and part three storey plus-basement single family dwellinghouse; provision of 1 off street car parking space at the side of the hours; associated landscaping.

401 - 403 King Street London W6 9NJ 2016/04292/FUL
Replacement of the defective cladding to the plant room at roof level.

867A And 869B And 871B And 873B Fulham Road London SW6 5HP 2016/03447/FUL
Erection of an additional floor at roof level and erection of rear extensions at third floor level, on top of existing back additions to each property.

26 - 28 Hammersmith Grove London W6 7HA 2016/04535/FUL
Erection of extensions at second floor level to the northern and western elevations of the building to provide 120sqm of additional (Class B1) office floorspace.

The Butcher's Hook 477 Fulham Road London SW6 1HL 2016/03988/FUL
Use of part of the public footpath outside the premises for outdoor seating to accommodate 6 tables and 24 chairs, enclosed with 900mm high hoarding barriers, in connection with the existing public house.

7 Marville Road London SW6 7BB 2016/04458/FUL
Erection of a rear extension at second floor level, on top of the existing back addition; excavation of the front and rear garden to form lightwells in connection with the creation of a new basement.

98 Masbro' Road London W14 0LP 2016/04584/FUL
Installation of 6no. solar panels on flat roof at roof level.

198A New King's Road London SW6 4NF 2016/04582/FUL
Replacement of existing timber windows and uPVC windows to front elevation at first and second floor levels with new double glazed timber sash windows.

48 Waldemar Avenue London SW6 5NA 2016/04306/FUL
Installation of new double glazed doors and windows to replace the existing at first floor level to the front elevation.

12 Orchid Street London W12 0SY 2016/04597/FUL
Erection of a single storey extension at first floor level to side of main building.

44 Racton Road London SW6 1LP 2016/04351/FUL
Amendments to previously approved planning permission ref: 2016/03368/FUL granted 8th September 2016 for the 'Demolition of the existing building with the exception of the front facade and

party walls, erection of a part one, part two, part four storey plus-basement single family dwellinghouse; formation of a roof terrace at second floor level to the rear elevation.' Amendments to include alterations to the front lightwell.

16 Ravenscourt Avenue London W6 0SL 2016/04562/TPO
Pruning of 4no Lime Trees (T1, T3, T4, T5) and felling of 1no Lime Tree (T2) in the rear garden, subject to Tree Preservation Order TPO/165/6/9.

49 New King's Road London SW6 4SE 2016/04124/FUL
Installation of new doors and creation of bike and refuse storage at ground floor level within the existing retail unit (Class A1), in connection with the approved residential units (ref: 2015/05179/FUL, granted 21st December 2015) at first and second floor level (Amended description).

153 Hammersmith Road London W14 0QL 2016/03714/FUL

Retention of additional excavation of the basement to that approved under application 2012/01183/FUL.

153 Hammersmith Road London W14 0QL 2016/03715/LBC

Retention of additional excavation of the basement to that approved under application 2012/01183/FUL.

153 Hammersmith Road London W14 0QL 2016/03885/FUL

Extension to the existing basement.

153 Hammersmith Road London W14 0QL 2016/03886/LBC

Extension to the existing basement.

10 - 12 North End Crescent London W14 8TQ 2016/04474/FUL

Erection of 2 metre high metal railings on the boundary on the side elevation fronting Mornington Crescent, replacing the existing vehicle access gates; erection of a 2 metre high brick wall to the rear boundary matching the existing alley way wall; relocation of existing refuse area from the side of the property to the rear; and erection of a secure and covered cycle storage area to the rear of the property.

Flat B 13 Poplar Grove London W6 7RF 2016/04526/FUL

Erection of a rear roof extension; erection of a rear extension at second floor level, on top of the existing back addition; formation of a roof terrace at third floor level to the rear elevation; installation of 3no rooflights in the front roofspace.

61 Chesson Road London W14 9QS 2016/04529/FUL
Erection of a lower ground floor rear extension, to the side of the existing back addition; Erection of a first floor rear extension, on top of the existing back addition; Conversion of the existing dwellinghouse into 2x self-contained flats.

Elsinore House 77 Fulham Palace Road London W6 8JA 2016/03964/ADV

Display of 1no internally illuminated fascia sign to West Elevation to Fulham Palace Road, 1no internally illuminated fascia sign to North Elevation, 1no internally illuminated fascia sign to the South Elevation, 1no internally illuminated fascia sign to North Elevation of Undercroft-South Block and 1no internally illuminated fascia sign to East Elevation of North Block and 1no internally illuminated sign to West Elevation entrance to pedestrian footpath at the northern boundary of the site.

66A Paddenswick Road London W6 0UB 2016/04576/ADV
Display of 1 no stainless steel halo illuminated (letters to be illuminated only) fascia sign.

66A Paddenswick Road London W6 0UB 2016/04575/FUL
Installation of a new shopfront; installation of timber cladding to front elevation including covering front parapet wall, alterations to the existing external staircase to the front elevation; alterations to partially lower the front boundary walls.

Hammersmith Apollo Queen Caroline Street London W6 9QH 2016/03908/FUL

Removal of existing external steel access steps; Installation of new external access gantry and ladders; Installation of new acoustic louvre screen; Installation of 3 new air handling units, 2 air chiller units and associated external duct work, and 1 boiler unit and flue.

Ground Floor 9 Wendell Road London W12 9RS 2016/04561/FUL

Erection of a single storey rear extension, to the side of the existing back addition; installation of French doors to replace two windows to rear elevation at ground floor level, installation of two new windows in side elevation at ground floor level and installation of new metal gates to replace existing on the Rylett Road elevation.

50-51 Shepherd's Bush Green London W12 8PS 2016/04380/FUL

Demolition of existing single storey storage outbuilding at the rear of the property and the erection of a part single, part two storey rear extension at basement and ground floor level to existing detached single storey breakfast room to provide an enlarged breakfast room for use by hotel guests.

15 Bowfell Road London W6 9HE 2016/04580/FUL

Erection of a rear roof extension; erection of a single storey rear extension to the side of the existing back addition; and installation of 4no. rooflights in the front roofspace.

13 Dolby Road London SW6 3NE 2016/04587/FUL

Excavation of the front garden and part of the rear garden to form lightwells, in connection with the creation of a new basement.

6 Steeple Close London SW6 3LE 2016/04520/FUL

Conversion of garage at front of property into a habitable room; replacement of existing garage door to the front elevation at ground floor level with a new garage door with high level glazing; replacement of a door in the rear elevation at second floor level with a window; installation of a door in the rear elevation at second floor level to provide access to the existing roof terrace; installation of a 1100mm high cantilevered glass balustrade to the rear edge of the roof terrace to the rear elevation at second floor level; and replacement of existing door and windows to the rear elevation at ground floor level with bi-folding French doors.

1 Romney Court Shepherd's Bush Green London W12 8PY 2016/04516/FUL

Erection of a single storey glazed extension to the front of the existing Barbers shop, including the installation of an extended part curved/part flat roof canopy; alterations to the rear store room at ground floor level including replacement of the pitched roof to a flat roof and alterations to openings.

35 Lime Grove London W12 8EE 2016/04566/FUL

Erection of a rear roof extension; installation of double doors to rear elevation at first floor level to replace existing door; demolition of the existing single storey rear extension to the back addition and the erection of a single storey rear extension, to the side and rear of the existing back addition; reinstatement of the existing railings around part of the flat roof at first floor level in connection with its use as a terrace; erection of a timber bin store in the front garden including excavation of part of the front garden.

St Katherine's Church Westway London W12 0SD 2016/04379/FUL

Re-modelling and refurbishment of the disused hard standing Asphalt Sports Court into a new hard standing play area to include the provision of new play equipments at the grounds of St. Katherine's Westway Church; erection of new 4m high chain link fence with 2no lockable gates around the perimeter of the Asphalt Sports Court; associated landscaping.

93 - 95 Gunterstone Road London W14 9BT 2016/04628/VAR

Variation of condition 2 to allow minor amendments to previously approved planning permission ref: 2013/05368/FUL granted 11th February 2014 for the 'Alteration to the front entrances of both 93 and 95 Gunterstone Road; alterations to form new dormer windows on the main rear roof slope of 93 Gunterstone Road; erection of a single storey rear extension at lower ground floor level to 93 Gunterstone Road, with the formation of a roof terrace on top with glazed balustrades and external alterations.' Amendments to the design of the fences and increasing the height of fences to either side of the new ground floor terrace.

57 Sherbrooke Road London SW6 7QJ 2016/04560/FUL

Amendments to previously approved planning permission ref: 2016/01702/FUL granted 14th June 2016 for the 'Erection of a rear roof extension involving an increase in the ridge height by 300mm; erection of a single storey rear extension, to the side and rear of the existing back addition; excavation of the front and rear garden to form lightwells in connection with the enlargement of the existing dwelling; conversion of the existing dwellinghouse into 3 x two bedroom self-contained flats; associated external alterations.' Amendments to include the formation of a roof terrace at first floor level to the rear elevation.

The Gateway Site White City Place 201 Wood Lane London W12 2016/04452/COMB

Demolition of existing car park and temporary public open space to facilitate comprehensive phased redevelopment of the site, to erect: three buildings to provide a total of up to 100,043sqm (GIA) of Office (Class B1); 904sqm (GIA) Retail (Class A1), and up to 2,579sqm (GIA) of Restaurant (Class A3) floorspace; hard and soft landscaping works, and alterations to existing vehicular/pedestrian routes/ access and associated works. Planning Permission is sought in detail for the erection of a building of between 6 and 23 storeys (including plant) with a maximum height of 109.40m AOD, with 1 basement level, comprising 63,181 sqm (GIA) Office (Class B1); 904sqm (GIA) Retail (Class A1), and; 1,298 sqm (GIA) Restaurant (Class A3); hard and soft landscaping areas, and; alterations to existing vehicular/pedestrian routes/ access and associated works. Planning Permission (with all matters to be reserved) is sought for the erection of a building of between 4 and 12 storeys (including plant) with a maximum height of 60.50m AOD, with 1 basement level, and a building of 3 and 4 storeys with a maximum height of 30.00m AOD, comprising combined floor areas of up to 36,862 sqm (GIA) Office (Class B1) and up to 1,281 sqm (GIA) Restaurant (Class A3); hard and soft landscaping areas, and; alterations to existing vehicular/pedestrian routes/ access and associated works.

Flat C 455 Fulham Palace Road London SW6 6SU 2016/04571/FUL

Erection of an additional floor at roof level; formation of a roof terrace to the front elevation at new roof level; raising of the existing front parapet wall to a height of 1100mm; and raising in height of existing chimney at roof level.

Suite 5 Burlington Lodge Studios 48 Rigault Road London SW6 4JJ 2016/04598/FUL

Erection of an additional floor at roof level, including an extension up to the front gable; and replacement of windows and entrance door to the front elevation.

402 North End Road London SW6 1LU 2016/04614/VAR

Variation of Condition 1 Application Reference 2015/03487/VAR granted 22nd October 2015 for the stores servicing and delivery times to vary for a temporary period from 07:00am to 23:00pm for 18 months from date of decision; variation sought to make the change of servicing and delivery times permanent.

8 Epirus Mews London SW6 7UP 2016/02929/FUL

Change of use of the ground floor from office (Class B1) into residential (Class C3); conversion of the ground and first floor level to be used as 1 x one bedroom self-contained flat.

70 Emlyn Road London W12 9TD 2016/04617/FUL

Erection of new brick front and side boundary walls with railings on top following the demolition of existing boundary wall; installation of a pedestrian access gate to the front elevation.

10 Rylett Crescent London W12 9RL 2016/04625/FUL

Excavation of part of the front garden to form a lightwell in connection with the enlargement of the existing basement; erection of a single storey rear extension to the side of the existing back addition; erection of a new boundary wall with railings on top at the front elevation; installation of new doors to replace the existing doors at ground floor level to the rear elevation; relocation

of the existing window to the side of rear back addition at first floor level; installation of a new rooflight in the side roofspace.

62 Lakeside Road London W14 0D 2016/04593/FR3

Replacement of all existing timber, aluminium and PVCu windows to the rear elevation with double-glazed UPVC windows.

64 - 80 Lakeside Road London W14 0DY 2016/04594/FR3

Replacement of all existing timber, aluminium and PVCu windows and doors to the rear elevations with double-glazed UPVC windows.

84 - 104 Lakeside Road London W14 0DY 2016/04595/FR3

Replacement of all existing timber, aluminium and PVCu windows and doors to the rear elevations with double-glazed UPVC windows.

FOR CONSERVATION AREA CONSENT (DEMOLITION WORK) FOR LISTED BUILDING CONSENT

153 Hammersmith Road London W14 0QL 2016/03715/LBC

Retention of additional excavation of the basement to that approved under application 2012/01183/FUL.

153 Hammersmith Road London W14 0QL 2016/03886/LBC

Extension to the existing basement.

Hammersmith Apollo Queen Caroline Street London W6 9QH 2016/03909/LBC

Removal of existing external steel access steps; Installation of new external access gantry and ladders; Installation of new acoustic louvre screen; Installation of 3 new air handling units, 2 air chiller units and associated external duct work, and 1 boiler unit and flue.

FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH MAY AFFECT THE SETTING OR CONTEXT OF A LISTED BUILDING

691 Fulham Road London SW6 5UJ 2016/04544/VAR

Minor amendments to planning permission ref: 2015/06043/FUL granted 7th April 2016 to allow the variation of condition 2 in connection with the amendments to the approved drawings to include: installation of a new high level window to the side elevation at lower ground floor level, installation of 1no French doors with a Juliet balcony at first floor level and 2no French doors with Juliet balconies at upper ground floor level to the rear elevation in place of the windows.

153 Hammersmith Road London W14 0QL 2016/03714/FUL

Retention of additional excavation of the basement to that approved under application 2012/01183/FUL.

153 Hammersmith Road London W14 0QL 2016/03885/FUL

Extension to the existing basement.

Hammersmith Apollo Queen Caroline Street London W6 9QH 2016/03908/FUL

Removal of existing external steel access steps; Installation of new external access gantry and ladders; Installation of new acoustic louvre screen; Installation of 3 new air handling units, 2 air chiller units and associated external duct work, and 1 boiler unit and flue.

6 Steeple Close London SW6 3LE 2016/04520/FUL

Conversion of garage at front of property into a habitable room; replacement of existing garage door to the front elevation at ground floor level with a new garage door with high level glazing; replacement of a door in the rear elevation at second floor level with a window; installation of a door in the rear elevation at second floor level to provide access to the existing roof terrace; installation of a 1100mm high cantilevered glass balustrade to the rear edge of the roof terrace to the rear elevation at second floor level; and replacement of existing door and windows to the rear elevation at ground floor level with bi-folding French doors.

1 Romney Court Shepherd's Bush Green London W12 8PY 2016/04516/FUL

Erection of a single storey glazed extension to the front of the existing Barbers shop, including the installation of an extended part curved/part flat roof canopy; alterations to the rear store room at ground floor level including replacement of the pitched roof to a flat roof and alterations to openings.

Anyone who wishes to make representations about these

applications should do so by 22nd November 2016. See below for ways of commenting on applications.

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) ORDER 2013

NOTICES UNDER REGULATION 13

The Gateway Site White City Place 201 Wood Lane London W12 2016/04452/COMB

I give notice that Whitewood Gateway GP Ltd is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development: Demolition of existing car park and temporary public open space to facilitate comprehensive phased redevelopment of the site, to erect: three buildings to provide a total of up to 100,043sqm (GIA) of Office (Class B1); 904sqm (GIA) Retail (Class A1), and up to 2,579sqm (GIA) of Restaurant (Class A3) floorspace; hard and soft landscaping works, and alterations to existing vehicular/pedestrian routes/ access and associated works. Planning Permission is sought in detail for the erection of a building of between 6 and 23 storeys (including plant) with a maximum height of 109.40m AOD, with 1 basement level, comprising 63,181 sqm (GIA) Office (Class B1); 904sqm (GIA) Retail (Class A1), and; 1,298 sqm (GIA) Restaurant (Class A3); hard and soft landscaping areas, and; alterations to existing vehicular/pedestrian routes/ access and associated works. Planning Permission (with all matters to be reserved) is sought for the erection of a building of between 4 and 12 storeys (including plant) with a maximum height of 60.50m AOD, with 1 basement level, and a building of 3 and 4 storeys with a maximum height of 30.00m AOD, comprising combined floor areas of up to 36,862 sqm (GIA) Office (Class B1) and up to 1,281 sqm (GIA) Restaurant (Class A3); hard and soft landscaping areas, and; alterations to existing vehicular/pedestrian routes/ access and associated works.

The Council note that: The application is accompanied by an Environmental Statement (E.I.A.)

The proposed development is a major development.

The proposed development is within a conservation area and may affect its character or appearance.

The proposed development adjoins conservation areas and may affect their character or appearance.

Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications should do so by 22nd November 2016. See below for ways of commenting on applications.

Signed: **NIGEL PALLACE**

Executive Director for Transport and Technical Services on behalf of HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL

You can view applications, make comments and monitor their progress on our website: www.lbhf.gov.uk/planning. Click on the 'Planning Online' logo on the Planning Home Page.

You can also E-mail comments to: plancomments@lbhf.gov.uk

You can also inspect details of applications using computers at our office **RECEPTION FIRST FLOOR HAMMERSMITH TOWN HALL EXTENSION KING STREET W6** between 9.00am and 5.00pm, Monday to Friday, excluding public holidays.

If you want to make comments on applications please E-mail them through our website or post them to **DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT TOWN HALL KING STREET W6 9JU** by the date shown above.

Please include the application reference number and the name of the planning officer. We will try to consider any representations received after the date indicated but this cannot be guaranteed so please reply promptly. For initial enquiries call our information and reception service on **020 87531081 or 020 8753 1082.**

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
SECTION 14(1)
(WOOD LANE)
TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate gas mains repair works to be carried out in the above named road; it intends to make an Order the effect of which would suspend the northbound bus lane in a section of the above named road.
2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, the northbound bus lane outside the former BBC Television Centre shall be suspended.
3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be required.
4. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
5. The Order would come into operation on the 9th November 2016 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
6. Works would be expected to commence on Wednesday 9th November 2016 and last for 21 days. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 24th day of October 2016

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

Public Notices

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990
NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13 - TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2015
Proposed Development at: The Clearings, Draycott Avenue, London. SW3 2NA
Take notice that an application is being made by McGrove Developments Ltd under Section 73 of the Town and Country Planning Act (1990) for a minor material amendment to planning permission PP/16/01795.

Any owner* of the land or tenant** who wishes to make representations about this application should write to the Council at Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, Department of Planning and Borough Development, Town Hall, Hornton Street, London, W8 7NX within 21 days beginning with the date of publication of this notice.
Signed: DP9 Ltd
On behalf of: McGrove Developments Ltd
Date: 28th October 2016

***owner** means a person having a freehold interest or a leasehold interest the unexpired term of which is not less than seven years, or, in the case of development consisting of the winning or working of minerals, a person entitled to an interest in a mineral in the land (other than oil, gas, coal, gold or silver).
***tenant** means a tenant of an agricultural holding any part of which is comprised in the land. Statement of owner's rights The grant of planning permission does not affect owner's rights to retain or dispose of their property, unless there is some provision to the contrary in an agreement or in a lease. Statement of agricultural tenant's rights The grant of planning permission for non-agricultural development may affect agricultural tenant's security of tenure.

YOUR LOCAL NEWSPAPER
BEST FOR NEWS, SPORT, JOBS, CARS & HOMES

LADDAWAN SORECK (otherwise Laddawan Chongphasal) (Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named, late of 78 Oakley Street, London, SW3 5NP, UNITED KINGDOM, who died on 23/08/2016, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 09/01/2017, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.
Armstrong Private Client Solicitors,
143 Stoke Newington Church Street, London N16 0UH.
Ref: SOR24

To advertise in this section please call 020 8768 4912

South London & MERTON

LICENSING ACT 2003
NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR VARIATION OF PREMISES LICENCE
NOTICE IS GIVEN THAT Ceru Restaurants Ltd has applied to Kensington and Chelsea Borough Council on 27th October 2016 to vary the premises licence at Ceru, 74 Bute Street, London, SW7 3EY for an application to seek authorisation for the sale of alcohol for consumption off the premises and the provision of late night refreshment outdoors within the existing permitting hours. The proposed off sales of alcohol will be in sealed containers and ancillary to takeaway meals only. The primary reason for the application is to allow deliveries to take place via companies such as Deliveroo, as more particularly set out in the application.
Any person who wishes to make a representation in relation to this application must give notice in writing to: Licensing Department, 37 Pembroke Road, London, W8 6PW by 10.00am on 11th November 2016. A record of the application can be inspected on the Council's website www.rbkc.gov.uk or at the above address during office hours. The register can be viewed at the above address during office hours. It is an offence, under section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003, to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in or in connection with an application for a premises licence and the maximum fine on being convicted of such an offence is £5,000.
Thomas & Thomas Partners LLP,
38a Monmouth Street, London WC2H 9EP
www.landip.com

Transport for London Notice

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
THE GLA ROADS AND GLA SIDE ROADS (WESTMINSTER) RED ROUTE CONSOLIDATION TRAFFIC ORDER 2008 A302, A3217 AND A3214 GLA ROADS (VICTORIA STREET, BRESSENDEN PLACE AND BUCKINGHAM PALACE ROAD) VARIATION ORDER 2016
THE GLA ROADS (CITY OF WESTMINSTER) (BUS PRIORITY) CONSOLIDATION ORDER 2009 A302 AND A3214 GLA ROADS (VICTORIA STREET AND BUCKINGHAM PALACE ROAD) VARIATION ORDER 2016
THE A3214 GLA SIDE ROAD (BUCKINGHAM PALACE ROAD, CITY OF WESTMINSTER) BANNED TURN ORDER 2016
THE A302 GLA ROAD WESTMINSTER BRIDGE (CITY OF WESTMINSTER) PRESCRIBED ROUTE TRAFFIC ORDER 2016
1. Transport for London, hereby gives notice that it intends to make the above named Orders under section 6 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.
2. The general nature and effect of the Orders will be to:
(1) remove the City of Westminster controlled paid for parking bay on Bressenden Place adjacent to The Stag public house and replace it with double red lines (No Stopping at Any Time);
(2) relocate the solo motor cycle parking bay outside The Stag public house Bressenden Place 2 metres south-eastwards;
(3) remove the loading, unloading and disabled persons' bay at the northern kerb-line of Victoria Street and replace it with double red lines (No Stopping at Any Time);
(4) relocate the loading and unloading bay outside Nos. 205 to 207 Victoria Street to outside Nos. 91 to 99 Buckingham Palace Road reducing its length to 10.5 metres;
(5) reduce the length of the loading and unloading bay outside Nos.6 and 8 Buckingham Palace Road by approximately 1.5 metres;
(6) remove the loading and unloading only bay outside No.181 Victoria Street and replace it with double red lines (No Stopping at Any Time);
(7) remove the section of single red line (No Stopping Monday to Saturday 8am to 7pm) at the northern kerb-line of Victoria Street between Bressenden Place and Allington Street and replace it with double red lines (No Stopping at Any Time);
(8) consolidate the double red lines (No Stopping at Any Time) on Buckingham Palace Road between Victoria Street and Bressenden Place to accommodate a new road lay out;
(9) remove the bus lanes on Victoria Street between Bressenden Place and Buckingham Palace Road;
(10) reduce the length of the southbound bus lane on Buckingham Palace Road between Bressenden Place and Victoria Street by 7.5 metres;
(11) Introduce a no left turn restriction from the southbound carriageway of Buckingham Palace Road into Bressenden Place.
(12) prescribe that all vehicles in lane one of the eastbound carriageway A302 Bridge Street turn left at its junction with A3211 Victoria Embankment onto its main northbound carriageway.
(13) prescribe that all vehicles in lane two of the eastbound carriageway A302 Bridge Street proceed straight ahead at its junction with A3211 Victoria Embankment onto A302 Westminster Bridge.
3. The roads which would be affected by the Orders are A302 Victoria Street, A3217 Bressenden Place, A3214 Buckingham Palace Road and A302 Westminster Bridge.
4. A copy of the Orders, a statement of Transport for London's reasons for the proposals, maps indicating the location and effect of the Order and copies of any Order revoked, suspended or varied by the Order can be inspected during normal office hours at the offices of:
• Transport for London Streets Traffic Order Team (RSM/PI/STOT) Palestra, 197 Blackfriars Road London, SE1 8NJ
• West One Infrastructure Services 10th Floor Westminster City Hall 64 Victoria Street London, SW1E 6QP
5. All objections and other representations to the proposed Orders must be made in writing and must specify the grounds on which they are made. Objections and representations must be sent to Transport for London, Streets Traffic Order Team, Palestra, 197 Blackfriars Road, London, SE1 8NJ quoting reference RSM/PI/STOT/TRO, GLA/2016/0079-81&523, to arrive 21st November 2016. Objections and other representations may be communicated to other persons who may be affected.

Dated this 1st day of November 2016
Mufu Duwoju
Network Impact Management Team Manager
Road Space Management - Operations,
Transport for London, Palestra, 197 Blackfriars Road,
London, SE1 8NJ

MAYOR OF LONDON



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QPR observed a minute's silence on Friday, their last home game before Remembrance Sunday.

Pictures: Rob Newell

Friday fright night

Queens Park Rangers feel the pain in West London derby clash

OUTCLASSED and out-thought – there really were no positives for Queens Park Rangers to take from their embarrassing 2-0 home defeat at the hands of their near-neighbours Brentford.

Rangers were distinctly second-best against the Bees in W12 last Friday, with a goal in each half – from Josh Clarke and Romaine Sawyers – doing the damage in full view of the live television cameras.

In truth, QPR could not have complained had Bees – winless in their four previous games – won this West London derby by a margin of five or six goals.

Rangers' beleaguered boss Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink said: "They won deservedly, no question about it.

"Tonight is a massive step backwards for us. We were second-best and it hurts.

"We started all right in the first half but then they took over, through a mixture of counter-attacks and our mistakes.

"As painful as it is, you have to be honest enough and admit we just weren't good enough.

"We started the second half well but we have to score when we are on top, especially at home. We didn't do that and they took advantage."

The statistics only rubbed salt into gaping QPR wounds. This was only Brentford's first league win at Rangers since October 9, 1964 – another Friday fright night.

The only brief respite on an otherwise miserable night for home fans among the below-capacity 16,888 crowd – including around 2,700 Brentford fans – was the generous applause, in the 10th minute, for Rangers' legendary former striker Stan Bowles.

Watching the game on television from his daughter's home in Manchester, where he is suffering from Alzheimer's, Bowles would have been heartened by the warmth of the crowd, if not the quality of Rangers' inept, rudderless display.

Like Bowles, Mark Lazarus played for both QPR and Brentford – but the latest ex-player to

Left-back Jack Robinson takes on Brentford's Josh Clarke on Friday



be inducted into the Forever R's Club had to endure Rangers' ineffectual performance from the Loftus Road stands. Ironically, Lazarus scored Bees' third in that 3-1 victory at Rangers 52 years ago.

Responding to his side being booed off at the end, Hasselbaink said: "I am very disappointed for the fans. We did not do ourselves justice tonight and it's a very painful night, a painful result and a painful performance to take.

"I know it's very painful for the supporters, too, and we have to put our hands up and say sorry and try to put it right.

"There is expectation for us when we play at home – that's normal and we have to live with it. It's up to us to keep on working and change around our fortunes at home.

"I'm not the kind of person to make excuses – tonight wasn't good enough and we deservedly lost the game."

The scoreline flattered Rangers. Dean Smith's Brentford, much superior in terms of intelligent movement and counter-attacking cunning, looked like they had a clear plan and knew how to execute it.

Time after time they got in behind QPR's back four and this was as easy a 2-0 away win as you will ever see.

It's difficult to see where Rangers' goals will come from. The club's three main strikers, Idrissa Sylla, Sebastian Polter and Conor Washington, have mustered only five in the Cham-

pionship between them in the first 15 matches of this season. Two centre-backs, Nedom Onuoha and Steven Caulker, have shared three goals, while midfielder Tjaronn Chery is top-scorer with four – three of which were penalties and the other a cracking free-kick.

QPR have managed to score at least twice in a game on only three occasions this campaign, finding the net in just seven of eight home fixtures and conceding 13. Nine goals from the last 12 matches tells its own story about their lack of creativity, movement off the ball, positioning and finishing power.

In the build-up to the Brentford debacle, Hasselbaink urged his forwards to show more imagination.

He said: "We need to show a little more imagination in the final third. I want us to play with that freedom.

"What's important is that the forward players know they are allowed to try things. You have to take certain risks – you have to dare to do things. And if it's the right risk to take, I will always support that."

Hasselbaink will be looking for a response on Saturday at Nottingham Forest, where QPR have a poor record.

Tony McDonald

BETTIN& BANTER

CHELSEA are genuine title contenders under Antonio Conte and I wouldn't rule them out as Premier League champions.

The visit of Everton to SW6 on Saturday should hold no fears for Conte and his men. I'll take Blues to win this one in front of the BT Sport cameras, although I'm not bold enough to wager too much on them keeping a fifth straight clean sheet in the Premier League. You might fancy odds of 9/4 on Chelsea to win and both teams to score.

Verdict: Chelsea to beat Everton 2-0 or 2-1 (both 8/1).

What can we expect from Fulham at Brentford in front of the Sky cameras on Friday night? Your guess is as good as mine. Looks a no-bet game to me but if push came to shove, a few quid on the draw might not be the worst punt in the world.

Verdict: Brentford v Fulham draw (5/2).

Brentford made very light work of QPR last Friday and even die-hard Hoops will not travel to Nottingham Forest on Saturday brimming with optimism. But the travelling fans should find hope in the stat that reveals Forest have not kept a clean sheet in 15 consecutive matches.

Verdict: Forest v QPR draw (5/2).

Tony McDonald

Matic reveals past torment at Chelsea

From Page 28

"But I don't want to talk too much because football fortunes seem to go week by week these days. One day I'm captain and we have kept a clean sheet, the next day I'm moving on."

One major change has been the removal of Mourinho and the introduction of Conte. Was Cahill worried, before the Italian's arrival, about the new manager's reputation as someone who ensures players are always running and a bit of a slave-driver?

"As a group we thought things would be different," he said. "The way he likes to work is different to what I have had before. But when something like that happens, it's important the lads buy into it. Change can sometimes be a good thing or a bad thing but you have to buy into it and work hard on what he wants.

"He's had success in the past and has brought his ideas that he strongly believes in to our club. It's about the attitude of the players to buy into what we are doing. Yes, it's different.

"It was difficult. I have been there before where pre-season has been very tough and this was the same. But also the way that we work in terms of tactics, analysis of games and things like this, alongside the fitness work, it's something you have to buy into."

And has he adjusted to it?

"I heard the manager speak the other day and he said that when you get the results it gives you belief that it is working and you're going in the right direction. For me it's been different but enjoyable.

"As a player you take the best out of every manager and learn that to move forward. We have had a lot of great managers at this club.

"We are seeing the results on the pitch. It's a long season but it's important we stay among the front-runners."

Two players ensuring that the goals are going in at the other end are Eden Hazard and Diego Costa, the Premier League's top-scorer with eight, who have netted 13 between them already this season, including the two that defeated Southampton.

"They are playing fantastic," said Cahill. "In a club like Chelsea it is important to have these big players, individuals who can change a game.

"You could see against

Southampton that we were trying hard defensively to keep a clean sheet, we worked hard on keeping the shape and we were 1-0 ahead.

"But everyone knows that in the Premier League, it's very tight when you're just a goal up.

"But then all of a sudden Diego turns and whips it into the top corner. That is sometimes the difference in players at this level and those we are blessed to have at this club.

"It is not just those two, though – we have many (match-winners) at Chelsea. But it's important that we have game-changers that can do something different, like Eden and Diego."

Cahill is happy to keep the ball out of Blues' net but equally pleased to notch one or two at the other end. He scored in the dying seconds of last Wednesday's 2-1 League Cup fourth-round defeat at West Ham United but is he a game-changer?

"Over my career I have scored a few. John (Terry) and (Branislav) Ivanovic have and, at 30, my tally of 39 goals is something I am pleased with. I presume it will be up there with some other (defenders)."

Blues host sixth-placed Everton at Stamford Bridge on Saturday (5.30pm).

● CHELSEA won 2-0 at home against Leicester City at Cobham in the Under-18 Premier League on Saturday.

Martell Taylor-Crossdale nabbed both goals in the second half.

That brace keeps Jody Morris' young Blues third in the table.

Skipper Josh Grant, 18, said: "We set ourselves up with a game-plan to use our two strikers up front to keep their back four occupied and to create the space for our full-backs to get forward.

"We dominated the game and that's what we wanted to do.

"Unfortunately, we didn't get as many goals as we'd hoped for but we're very pleased with three points and a clean sheet."

● CHELSEA Ladies will be playing in the Champions League again next season after securing the two points they needed to finish second in the Women's Super League – courtesy of a 3-2 victory over Reading on Sunday evening.

Hot-shot winger Eniola Aluko notched a brace, with left-back Ana Borges popping up to get Blues' third.

London Weekly News

SPORT

Tuesday November 1 2016

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Left, Chris Martin scores Fulham's fourth goal against Huddersfield, from the penalty spot, on Saturday.
Picture: Rob Newell

Right, Nemanja Matic has put last season's traumas behind him at Chelsea



Head coach thrilled by Fulham romp

Focus on Craven Cottage

FULHAM have the perfect opportunity to showcase their play-off credentials when they make the short trip to Brentford on Friday (7.45pm). Whites left themselves only three points off the Championship's top six with a 5-0 hammering of Huddersfield Town at Craven Cottage on Saturday – their biggest home league victory since beating Norwich City by the same score in August 2012.

And with the second-best away record in the division, Fulham go to Griffin Park determined to do themselves justice in front of the Sky Sports cameras.

"Brentford play very good football," Fulham head coach Slavisa Jokanovic said. "I've said before, we need to believe in ourselves and this situation can encourage us to push hard."

"Nothing is easy. Today we played against the third (placed) team in the Championship and we showed we can compete against them."

"We played better football than they played, and a new chance is in front of us on Friday night."

"With the energy, with the desire and with the personality we showed today, anything is possible."

Brentford will be buoyed by their richly deserved 2-0 West London derby win at Queens Park Rangers, also screened live, last Friday.

But Fulham produced the most outstanding Football League performance of the weekend by dominating promotion-chasing Huddersfield from the first whistle until the last, to claim their second win in 10 games.

After a sluggish start to his loan spell in SW6, revitalised Chris Martin made it three goals in four matches when he put Whites ahead at the Putney end in the eighth minute.

Martin, on loan from Derby County, netted his second of the game, from the penalty spot, in the 64th minute. Tomas Kalas (34, his first goal in England), Lucas Piazon (42) and Kevin McDonald (66) completed the rout.

It was Fulham's first home win in seven attempts since they beat Championship pacesetters Newcastle United on the opening day of the season.

"I am very happy with how my team played this game," Jokanovic said. "We made many important things and we were very good from the beginning to the end."

"First of all, credit to my players. And for our fans, they deserve an afternoon to enjoy more than they maybe have done in the past. We showed a very good face and we have to keep going."

"We are a team who have had to provide a reaction many times but our reaction started today from the first minute until the end. And from another side it's very important for us to believe in our work, our quality, and be ready for everything that is in front of us."

"We are two-and-a-half months into the competition. After a very good start, we had a complicated situation where we didn't find a way to win the games, and today we played a very good football game."

"The only thing I'm interested in now is to be ready for the next step."

Tony McDonald

Matic reveals past torment

Blues midfielder suffered Jose humiliation



This week at STAMFORD BRIDGE

By Paul Lagan

CHELSEA midfielder Nemanja Matic is a man on a mission – to erase the shame of finishing 10th in the Premier League last season and to prove that he is a player to be reckoned with this time out.

Two of his personal lows last season were the ignominy of coming on as a substitute against last weekend's opponents Southampton, and then being hauled off by manager Jose Mourinho. Chelsea went on to lose that game 3-1 at home. The other low came closer to the end of that disastrous campaign, when he scored at Sunderland and refused to celebrate. He declined to explain his reasons at the time.

But after Sunday's impressive 2-0 win against the Saints at St Mary's, the 6ft 4in midfielder from Serbia spilled the beans on those personal torments.

Of that day, October 3, 2015, when he was the sub who was subbed, he said: "I felt terrible. I am a man first of all. First, I felt bad in that moment but I did not react. I am very professional first of all. I respect this club and this shirt which I wear every week and that's why I didn't react. But normally some players react and maybe make some problems. But as you saw I did not react, I showed respect for my coach and my team."

How hard was it to take? He said: "Very hard. You have to play and see how you feel when it happens to you."

Subbing the sub is often viewed in football as the ultimate humiliation and the worst thing to happen to a player – but Matic doesn't necessarily agree.

"There are many things worse in life," he said. "But in football, the worst

is being injured. But you have to cope with that, to show respect for coach and team."

And his reaction to that humiliation, or lack of it, was proof of his ultra professionalism and respect for the Blues.

"I knew that I did the right thing. When I went on to the bench I remember it. I counted to 10. I knew I did the right thing and I am proud of that."

Echoing his frustration and desire to succeed, Matic explained that no-show of emotion at the Stadium of Light on May 7, when Blues won 3-2.

"When your team's target is to finish first, second or third, it's hard to celebrate when you finish 10th in the table," he said. "It was good to score a goal and I was happy with that but our target was not 10th."

Chelsea, on the back of four Premier League wins on the spin with no goals conceded in that time, have hauled themselves into title contention – fourth place and a point off leaders Manchester City. It's a position Matic is very comfortable with – and much of that is down to head coach Antonio Conte.

"Obviously we have improved a lot, game by game, but that's normal," said Matic. "We had a new coach at the beginning of the season and every day we work on that to see what he wants from us. We take it step by step, and we are getting better and better in training and are showing this on the pitch. I think that's four wins in a row and we are in a good way. Individually, I feel that everyone is one step better than before and that is good."

"I feel very good. Physically, I feel that I am ready. It's difficult to know if I am fitter than last year, when the team was not doing well."

"Of course, everyone feels good when you win games. I always try to give my best and work hard. And this season, with better results, I feel better and more confident."

Another player showing excellent form after a shaky spell is centre-back Gary Cahill – and he issued a warning to any detractors: "Don't write me off."

Like Matic, he is delighted with the revival of form following heavy defeats to Liverpool and Arsenal that did not feature some of Cahill's better performances. The upturn in fortune has coincided with the introduction of a three-man central defence, supported by athletic wing-backs. Is he happy?

"Yes, it is back to where we want to be," he said. "We knew we were letting a few goals in early in the season. We have worked on that in training – every player has worked hard on what the manager has brought across. We have bought into the formation and worked hard on mastering that. It's gone really well. Ultimately there is a shape but you need the personality in every player to go out, be committed to work to that shape and give a performance like we did at Southampton."

What has been the hardest part of this process? Cahill, 30, said: "I feel like I do more running. I have to come inside as well as go outside when we move out wide, so I'm covering more ground. But I am enjoying it and, ultimately, it is working for us as well. The last four games have been brilliant."

So how much mental toughness has he shown to bounce back from that 3-0 Arsenal drubbing at The Emirates?

"Don't write me off," was his spirited reply. "It's easy to criticise someone after certain games and it's fair enough. Sometimes you haven't had a good game. People are very quick to write people off but if you are at the top level you have to be mentally strong. For me, it was a matter of time before I turned the corner and got back to the performance levels that I should be at. The last four games I'm back to where I should be, I'm playing well, I feel good."

"It was a nice feeling to score last

week and getting a few clean sheets and good results is good for confidence – not just for me but the whole team."

"We talk about the character of the team but sometimes you have to show character yourself, and that's what I feel I have done."

Some players have a bad game and it affects them, while others move on. What camp does the England central defender fall into?

"I don't brood," he said. "I have learnt to deal with it better over the years. But I will never go away from a game having played badly and dust it off as if it doesn't matter. That's just not me. Everyone deals with things differently but I certainly reflect. I sometimes beat myself up but in terms of my frame of mind, when things don't go well, I want to be there."

"But the manager comes into this as well. There was a time, maybe after Arsenal away, where I could have been pulled out of the side but he showed belief in me."

"That is the most crucial time, because when you have a bad spell or a poor game the first thing you want to do is play again. I'm not the kind of person to shy away and think 'Things aren't going well so I'll take a back seat'."

"I have turned the corner, produced performances in the last few weeks and I'm pleased."

Would he have said "Fair enough" if he had been taken out the team after Arsenal?

"Yes," was his honest reply. "But I would never accept what people were saying."

"Criticism is one thing but to write someone off is very dangerous when you have a mindset as strong as mine, especially when I think I can work hard to turn the corner and come out again."

Turn to Page 27

Hammersmith

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A 'force for good' in London

By Geoff Baker
and Jack Dixon

They said it wouldn't last – at a time when Online is king, when Tweeting is the rage and when newspapers are cutting back or shutting up shop all around the capital, to launch a new local and traditional print newspaper would be madness.

Madness perhaps, but we've lasted – and this week the **London Weekly News** is proud to print its 100th edition for our tens of thousands of readers in Shepherd's Bush, Hammersmith, Fulham, Chelsea, Kensington, Westminster and The City.

Our thanks for helping us reach our centenary are entirely due to you. It's you, our reader, who has made a reality of local press legend Sir Ray Tindle's dream that in his 90th year the news entrepreneur could bring local papers back to the streets of West London again.

From coffee morning sales for Kensington charities to the very cross railing against Crossrail in Chelsea, from what's going on at the Westway to Westminster's work for the homeless, from the terror threats to Poppy Day parades, the housing crisis, the poison air that we breathe, the not-exactly-blooming Garden Bridge, the shocking dangers of cy-



Our first Hammersmith front page

cling, the need for mental health awareness, fighting the development of Soho, the parades and the festivals, the royals, nursery closures, knife crime, basement builders, NHS fears, the pains of trains and transport, new homes

for abandoned pets and much more, there is a home for everyone's story in the **London Weekly News** and we are glad to tell them all.

We may not be The Thunderer, but we will always try to give your cause or complaint a good shout, keeping it local because when a man is tired of local he's tired of the rich mix of accents, attitudes and origins that makes the combined communities of this London the envy of the world.

Humbling praise for our efforts has come in from this city's great and the good.

And indeed from the top – the Mayor of London, **Sadiq Khan**, said: "Local journalism is the lifeblood of the capital. My warmest congratulations to all those who work for the London Weekly News group. Here's to the next 100 editions!"

Nick Paget-Brown, Leader of Kensington & Chelsea Royal Borough Council, commented: "When I was first elected to the Council the internet hadn't really got off the ground and Twitter, Facebook and the rest were the stuff of sci-fi. Instead we had three local papers each with two or three full time reporters.

"Those papers were monitored carefully, by residents and by the Council. Letters to the editor were pored over. The coverage could be severe. But the reporters were mostly

working to a code and would offer you a chance to comment and a chance to reply. A strong local press was a genuine bulwark for democracy.

"For a long while, it seemed to me as if that kind of local press had died in Kensington and Chelsea but then up pops the News, a traditional newspaper doing its traditional job of reporting and providing a forum for debate. What a great antidote to too much social media with its anonymous trolls blessed with insights denied to the rest of us but strangely able to sum up complex and difficult issues with a venomous, if ill-informed, blast. Therapeutic for the authors maybe, but hardly a contribution to deepening knowledge.

"As the leader of a council that has to sometimes make difficult decisions, will once in a while upset people and which occasionally gets it wrong, it is not always comfortable having a strong local newspaper which residents actually read. In my view, the News, with its unerring focus on matters of interest to residents of Kensington and Chelsea, has so far been a force for good, so congratulations Phil, Geoff, Tim and the team on notching up your first 100 editions; and here's to your first 1,000."

Robert Atkinson, Leader of the Labour group on Kensington & Chelsea Royal Borough Council

TURN TO THE BACK PAGE

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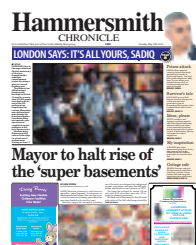


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THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF
KENSINGTON
AND CHELSEA





**Our 100th
Kensington
edition
November
2016**

How London's new paper was born

T began, as many wild ideas tend to, with a phone call that sounded slightly panicked.

"It's Pip", said Philip Evans, my old friend and my very first editor from our days of youth in the West Country, "I've just been talking to Sir Ray Tindle. He wants to launch something new and a bit daring in London."

'A pint for under a fiver?'
'No, a new weekly. Small team. I'm thinking me and Jackie (his wife) to sub it, Jack Dixon and you to write it. Nicky Sweetland to do the theatre, Tony MacDon-ald will do all the sport. What do you reckon?'

'Crazy, I love it. Whereabouts in London?'
'Central London. How soon do you reckon we could get it together?'

'Now you're asking. I don't know, maybe three months, probably four.'

'That's unfortunate 'cos we've got three weeks.'
'Are you on the sauce? What's it going to be called?'

'The London Weekly News.'
'Good title, says what it is on the tin. Three weeks. You're asking a bit here, Evs, but, great, I'm in. Has anyone ever started a paper this quick before?'

'Oh, and there's the other thing. It's not a paper, we're going to do four; covering Hammersmith and Fulham, Kensington and Chelsea, Westminster and Pimlico and a generic London Weekly News.'

'In three weeks?'

'Yes.'

'You, me, Jackie, Jack, Nick and Tony?'

'Yes.'

'You're f.....'
[We have edited the rest of this transcript as this is a family newspaper - Ed]

Amazingly, we did it and have continued to do it now for these past 100 editions. Jackie - who went without weekends for the best part of two series of *Downton* - was later augmented on the back bench by the highly-experienced Tim Dixon, the Ron Wood of our band, and, frankly, we're all a bit chuffed to be still standing.

To be honest, some days it has felt like 100 years as, supported by Karen McClean and her tireless advertising team and our indomitable circulation manager, Hayley Bright, a bunch of hacks up from the shires dedicated themselves to going without any semblance of a normal life for the best part of these past 23 months, working hours that would be illegal in Brussels, excessively-exceeding all smoking limits and growing a lot of beards because we haven't had much time for shaving. But now we're 100, and rather hoping for a telegram from The Queen. A 'well done for not pegging it' sort of thing.

But what saved us from the defibrillator that our critics predicted, has been you.

You, our reader; you, our communities, our schools, colleges, councils, City Hall, MPs, hospitals, the charities, the Royals, the cops, and the robbers, whose stories we have been happy to tell.



By LWN News Editor
GEOFF BAKER

We've not always got it right. I for one am happy to own up to some utter howlers in my misunderstandings of the ways of Kensington and Chelsea, as I am sure that Councillor Tim Coleridge will testify.

I also have no doubt that my bizarre attempts to be a royal correspondent cause the regular choking on many cornflakes at the Palace, sorry about that, Ma'am.

But we will get it better, because the fire is in us. And the more you send us, the more we'll get it right.

When we started out they kindly gave me, along with all the gin I can drink, this somewhat-presumptuous title of News Editor.

In truth, I basically news edit myself. But I do get to see everybody else's copy come onto my screen, knowing that they'd take a pickaxe to me if I dared to touch it.

And it's them, our columnists, the many voices of the LWN, who I think deserve the greatest thanks in this - Nick Paget-Brown, Stephen Cowan, Angela McConville, Syed Kamall, Charlie Mullins, Boris in his day (hey Sadiq, we're holding space), Robert Atkinson, Nicky Sweetland for her theatre scene and Jack Dixon from his music gigs. And fanatical Blue Paul Lagan's Chelsea column. All good stuff.

I may not always agree with what they write, I'm sure that you don't, but I admire how they write it and how they all add shade and thought to this paper. Thank you guys, there's a tab running at the bar for you, under the name of Evans.

I have also admired the style and passion of our other contributors, those of you who have sent us letters and releases these past 100 weeks. Please keep them coming; we're your platform, use us.

This is probably as unprofessional as some of my wilder front pages, but there are two more people who deserve the shout for this paper to have made it this far.

One is local press legend Sir Ray Tindle, without whose investment and sheer sense of audacity nobody would even be reading this; it was his inspired dream to give West Londoners local papers again and it's good to have helped to make it happen.

The other is Philip - 'Pip' - Evans, the editor of all this. He will probably have this subbed out, which would be a shame because the best way of telling you how hard he has worked on this paper is to report that recently I wrote a story about some test or other that you could do to gauge your 'heart age', i.e. how old you had over-worked yourself and had put your heart into it. Pip's heart age came in at 93. He's in his late-sixties. Just saying.

Thank you reader, keep sending us your stories for the next 100; we really are here to be there for you.

'We are here to be there for you'

Our 100th edition



Sadiq Khan - Mayor of London



Nick Paget Brown - leader of Kensington Council



Robert Atkinson - Labour leader of Kensington Council



Lady Victoria Borwick - Kensington MP

'Essential reading for everyone'

■FROM PAGE ONE

cil, added: "I am delighted to congratulate the London Weekly News on your astonishing feat of reaching your 100th birthday. In an age of increasingly specialised and instant communications where more and more people focus only on things and topics that they already know about or which make us feel comfortable, it is splendid to have a general paper that covers areas and topics about our community that we know little about. I love to reach for the News and without fail discover something new. Letters, articles and editorials that discomfit the powerful and empower the powerless. I look forward to another century of scoops and challenge. Well done."

From Victoria Borwick, MP for Kensington: "Many congratulations to everyone at the London Weekly News team on reaching their 100th edition. They work exceptionally hard to deliver a paper full of stories every week that has become essential reading for everyone in the local community. I wish them all the best and look forward to reading the next 100 editions!"

Mrs Borwick's colleague Greg Hands added: "As MP for Chelsea and Fulham, I enjoy reading each week the various editions of the London Weekly News and congratulate all the team on their 100th edition."

Angela McConville, CEO of Westway Trust said: "Congratulations to London Weekly News on reaching their 100th edition. It's great to have a local paper that covers the issues that really matter to people in Kensington and Chelsea."

"A regular column in London Weekly News has been a fantastic way to update people about projects Westway Trust working on and to ask for community input, as well as a way to give a platform to other local voices. People regularly stop me to talk about issues I raise in the column so clearly the paper has become a must-read in North Kensington."

The founder of the London Weekly News Group, local press legend Sir Ray Tindle, added his congratulations.

He said: "I am delighted that the London Weekly News group has reached its 100th edition and I am proud of how the small but dedicated team, led by Philip Evans and Hannah Walker, has reached this milestone. By reaching their 100th edition, they have proved that the people of central London want a local paper that records their achievements and aspirations, and champions their community, and in doing so have demonstrated what I have always believed - that there is still a real future for local papers in London."

Wow. Thank you all, you're most kind. Over the last two years, London Weekly News has also proudly championed the great work carried out on a daily basis by the capital's unsung



Greg Hands - MP for Chelsea & Fulham



Angela McConville - chief executive of the Westway Trust



Rickesh Advani - tireless community worker in London



Sir Ray Tindle - founder of the London Weekly News

heroes. The people operating behind the scenes, often without recognition, to keep London moving.

Rickesh Advani is just one of the thousands of tireless community servants who give up their time to improve the lives of others.

Last Christmas, we put Rick's story in the spotlight. After falling on hard times and spending 18 months sleeping rough in the heart of London, he turned his life around and is now working to grow his own homelessness support charity, Never Leaving People, for Londoners who find themselves in the same situation.

Rick's story of personal development in the face of adversity demonstrated the depth of the poverty crisis in our city - but also its entrepreneurial spirit and determination to succeed, and which the LWN is keen to promote.

"The London Weekly News has offered enormous praise and validation to the hard-working and dedicated efforts of our Never Leaving People team of volunteers," he said.

"Recognition is not why we do our work. However, it certainly is invaluable in broadening our community reach. The support and hands-on involvement has been beyond touching, and these efforts have helped to generate an increased demand for our services."

Happy birthday to us!

Celebrate with us and win £100!

● Celebrate our 100th edition by trying to win a £100 prize. All you have to do is to write in no more than 100 words why you like the London Weekly News Group with titles in Kensington & Chelsea, Westminster and The City, Fulham, Hammersmith and Shepherd's Bush.

Email your entries to competitions@londonweeklynews.co.uk

The best answer judged by our editorial team, led by News Editor Geoff Baker, will win a £100 prize. Go on. Give it a go! Closing date for entries is Friday, November 18th.

The Editor's decision is final.



The London Weekly News Group of newspapers is published by Capital Media Newspapers Limited.
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